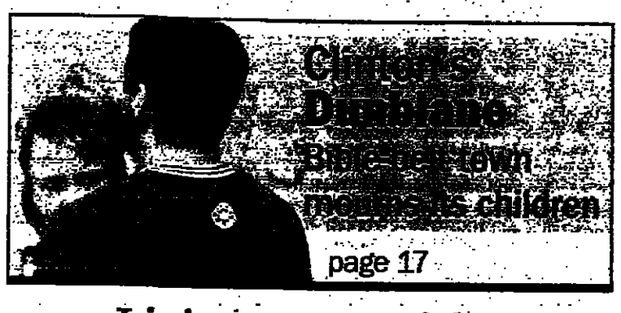
THE TIMES

35p

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Clinton's Dunblane: Bill reflects on pain he causes his children

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The two sisters of Henry VIII

JOBS
From Berkshire to Brussels
28 pages of opportunities



The great Earl Grey tea mystery

page 20

Livingstone quick to stake claim

London mayor to have wide range of powers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

LONDON'S new elected mayor is to command a £3 billion budget and have sweeping powers over transport, economic development and the police and fire services, under radical proposals for the government of the capital unveiled yesterday.

And the race for the job got underway even as John Prescott was announcing the unexpectedly wide-ranging changes: Ken Livingstone threw his hat into the ring — and government forces just as swiftly rallied to stop him.

Mr Livingstone, the last GLC leader who is now Labour MP for Brent East, thanked Mr Prescott for creating an "exciting and radical new job opportunity". But Labour officials and Blairite MPs said that it was unthinkable that a man who regularly opposed party and government policy should be on the list of names from which party members in London will pick the official candidate. They talked up the merits of rival contenders such as the Transport Minister Glenda Jackson, the television presenter Trevor Phillips and the Health Secretary Frank Dobson.

On the Conservative side, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare was first out of the starting gates, declaring that he would give his salary — likely to be around £90,000 — to charity if he won. The former Transport Minister Steve Norris is also a potential runner, as is Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong.

The new mayor will be one of the most prominent political leaders in Europe, with an electorate of five million and the potential to cause trouble for the government of the day. He or she will draw up an overall economic strategy for the capital, helped by a new business-led London Development Agency;



Livingstone: "an exciting new job opportunity"

will oversee the fight against crime; and be a central figure in London's cultural life.

While the mayor will have no new tax-raising powers, it is possible that he or she may be able to raise extra funds from charging motorists for the use of congested roads and a levy on parking spaces at supermarkets and offices.

Under the Deputy Prime Minister's plans, the new Greater London Authority will be made up of the mayor, and a 25-strong London Assembly, which — like the mayor — will be elected every four years. The assembly will be able to call the mayor to account at a monthly public question time and an annual state of London debate.

Londoners will vote on the proposals in a referendum on May 7, the day of the local elections. If they say 'Yes', the first elections could take place next year.

Those will extend the advance of proportional representation in Britain. The assembly is to be elected by the "additional member" system: 14 will be chosen by the first-past-the-post method and the rest chosen from a list drawn up by the parties. The mayor is to be elected by the supplementary vote system under which voters list their first and second choices — the latter to determine the outright winner.

Another new body, Transport for London — directly accountable to the mayor — will run the Underground, buses, taxis, minicabs, and river services, and take charge of London's strategic road network.

The police in the capital will be overseen by a new 23-strong Metropolitan Police Authority, 11 of whose members will come from the assembly while the rest will be appointed by the Home Secretary. The mayor will set the police budget while the authority will publish policing plans, set targets, and report on performance.

Outlining his plans to MPs, Mr Prescott denounced the "sheer arrogance" of the last government in abolishing the GLC without Londoners' consent. "However hard people have tried to fill the gap, there is no substitute for democracy," he said. London needed leadership with a clear mandate from the people to tackle the problems of traffic congestion, decaying infrastructure, air pollution, crime and social exclusion.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, said that the proposals risked curtailing and sidelining the powers of the London boroughs and he asked Mr Prescott to confirm that the Government was planning to give the new authority power to tax drivers coming into London. The minister said that issue would be addressed in a transport White Paper, but that any new powers would apply to all authorities.

London mayor, pages 10, 11
Leading article, page 23

LYLE STAFFORD / Reuters



The young princes dress up for the adoring teenage crowd in Vancouver yesterday while their father takes in the scenery

Fresh Prince with street cred

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IT WAS little more than shrug but it sent the teenage female population of Vancouver ululating to new heights of delirium. Prince William showed yesterday that the body language of South Central Los Angeles has reached the playing fields of Eton and in doing so revealed that he has inherited his mother's instinct for enchanting crowds with the slightest gesture.

The Prince of Wales had joked earlier on this trip that his sons were the "rock and rap experts in the family" and when they were all handed Canadian bomber jackets and "poor boy" caps William slipped into his with rather more ease than his father.

This excited the teenage audience. It was part of the Roots Athletic range supplied to the Canadian Olympic team and the bright red caps are so popular that there is a 600,000 waiting list. William, clearly delighted, turned with a loose-shouldered, open-armed roll of the wrists. He did not actually say "yo!, how's it hangin'?" but nevertheless sent the audience into frenzy.

Such a greeting delivered by a white, public school-educated member of royalty on the streets of LA might look absurd. But so popular has rap and other black street music become that the accompanying slang and posturing is a feature of every playground. In a reference to the TV character played by Will Smith they were joking that there was a new Fresh Prince.

Kerry Parnell, editor of *Bliss*, the magazine for teenage girls said: "He is probably even more popular in North America than he is here. He is seen as the epitome of the charming English young man and he is a royal and he looks like Diana."



Prince Charles: not one of the family rap experts

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Popular Budget boosts poll ratings for Labour

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE Budget has been warmly welcomed by the public and bolstered Labour's big lead over the Tories, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

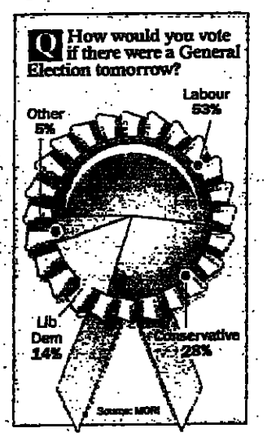
Support for Labour has hardened to 53 per cent, up a point since late February, after slipping for four months running. The Tories are unchanged on 28 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats down a point at 14 per cent.

Some 57 per cent of the people questioned believed that Gordon Brown's package was good for the country, while only 22 per cent felt it was bad. This is on a par with the ratings for last July's Budget and the highest since Denis Healey's 1977 package.

On a personal level — where people are generally more sceptical — 33 per cent thought it was good for them compared with 39 per cent who thought it bad. That is the best rating since the Lawson budgets of a decade ago.

People are also more positive about the Government and the economy generally. The balance of those satisfied against those dissatisfied with the way the country is being run has risen from plus 1 to plus 8 points, while a "net balance" of plus 4 believe the economy will improve rather than get worse in the coming year.

All three party leaders will find comfort in the figures. Tony Blair has reversed the recent slip in his record ratings, so that he is now backed by a more than two-to-one margin. William Hague's "net balance" is now minus 16 points, compared with minus 19 last month. And Paddy Ashdown continues to enjoy the most favourable ratings of all three, as the public approves his performance by a three-to-one margin.



MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,879 adults at 165 sampling points across Britain on March 20 to 23. Voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (11 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) and who refused to say (2 per cent).





These are the cousins charged with murdering children and a teacher at their Arkansas school. They are Mitchell Johnson, 13, (top) and Andrew Golden, 11 ..... Page 17

Belgium 'dumped' refugees on UK

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND RICHARD FORD

HUMAN rights groups last night accused Brussels of "shuttlecocking" asylum-seekers across Europe as *The Times* found refugees whose accounts support claims that Belgian officials dump unwanted immigrants on Eurostar trains bound for London.

Three Kenyans' claims that they were given free tickets and orders to quit continental Europe fuelled growing Home Office concern that Britain is being treated as a "soft touch" by its EU partners.

The Home Secretary is to write to his Belgian counterpart demanding explanations for the sudden influx of asylum-seekers from Brussels.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, said officials had written to the Belgian Interior Ministry about the increase last month but "received no response".

The issue, which threatens to cause tensions between the two states, will be raised at a higher level today during a meeting of senior EU immigration officials in Brussels.

Jack Straw is to demand that the Belgian Interior Minister take action to stop such "dumping" of people given seven-day notices to quit Europe's "open-borders" Schengen area.

It comes after the introduction of stringent checks on travel documents at the Gare du Nord in Paris last year after a sudden influx of Somalis at Waterloo.

Eurostar is not covered by the Carriers' Liability Act, under which airlines and ferry companies face a £2,000 a head fine if they bring in bogus refugees whose papers are not in order.

The Belgian Interior Ministry said last night: "We are not aware of any problem."

One-way ticket, page 6

Royal Opera chief resigns

The chief executive of the Royal Opera House, Mary Allen, resigned last night after she and the Board decided to go their separate ways. Ms Allen had been in the post for less than a year.

The new chairman Sir Colin Southgate and his board want an artistic general director to head the Royal Opera House and its two companies the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera, not an arts administrator ..... Page 2

England draw in Switzerland

England's footballers drew 1-1 with Switzerland in Berne last night. Paul Merson equalised in the 69th minute from a cross by Sheringham. It was the Middlesborough man's first goal for his country in six years.

Tottenham Hotspur's defender Ramon Vega had given Switzerland the lead in the 38th minute ..... Page 52



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How to lose nothing in translation: always act like you won

POLITICAL SKETCH

"I'm delighted to be back with English," Tony Blair told MPs at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. Would that it made any difference!

Mr Blair had just been congratulated by Welsh-speaking Gareth Thomas (Lab, Clwyd W) on his command of French when speaking in Paris the previous day. Would he now deliver the *coup de grâce* to the *ancien régime* in the House of Lords?

Unfortunately, Mr Thomas mispronounced *grâce*, which should end in a sibilant sound. He said "*gras*" (pronounced *gra*', as in *pâté de foie gras*) instead. *Gras* means "fatty". A *coup de gras* would be a takeover by the fatties. Nicholas Soames (C, Sussex Mid) quivered interestedly in his seat — though whether it was the *coup* or the *pâté* which interested him was unclear. Hulky John Prescott was absent, no doubt plotting.

But for the moment, lean, mean Mr Blair remains in charge. He soon convinced onlookers that, happy though he might be to be "back with English", he might as well have been talking French for all the sense he made to English MPs.

Those who have languished under totalitarian regimes abroad will recognise the impotent shrug with which citizens greet news that the political leadership has been somehow "caught out" or "shown up".

"So what? What are you going to do about it?" is the response. Caught contradicting themselves or dodging the truth, totalitarian leaders just grin and carry on. It is getting like that in our House of Commons.

On paper, William Hague won yesterday's exchanges with the Prime Minister, but there was no sense of a debating victory. Blair's unspoken answer to every charge is: "Anyway, I'm on top, and sucks to you."

Government backbenchers cheer and the Opposition grind their teeth. Hague accused Blair of conniving in a Euro-fudge over terms of qualification for a single currency, and Blair never really answered.

Whenever Hague put to him another example of a condition which had been broken, the Prime Minister just kept repeating that there were "a range of criteria".

Asked by the new Labour MP for Dover, Gwyn Prosser, whether he agreed that Tory plans for privatising the port had been rubbish, Mr Blair stunned the House by agreeing; then he added that "both sides of the House" had been delighted when the previous MP for Dover lost his seat. David Shaw was a controversial MP, admittedly, but he could not now defend himself; it seemed below the belt.

Asked by Tim Collins (C, Westmorland & Lonsdale) about claims he had importuned the Italian Prime Minister concerning BSkyB, he quibbled with the question rather than engaging it.

Asked by another backbench creep to confirm that Liberal Democrat plans to improve welfare by a 1p tax rise were stupid, Mr Blair chortled that "the *p* has dried up". *Boom-boom.*

He got his laughs — as a theatre critic would say. He got the Tories hopping mad, and the journalists writing that a confident Mr Blair had returned from his triumph in Paris and had an easy time of it at Westminster. Mr Blair — in the sarcastic words of Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N & Stoke Newington) — "walks on water". Wins are notched up, win by win. Drop by drop, respect ebbs.

In the Gallery, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare awaited the next scene agog: the Deputy Prime Minister's Statement on a London mayorality. Ken Livingstone (Lab, Brent E) leaped to embrace Mr Prescott's plans, but called for more money for the metropolis. To call Prescott's reply *brusque* would be ... well, French.

Well-off will pay more under new 'welfare contract'

Jill Sherman on Tony Blair's plans to cut the nation's £90bn bill for social failure

TONY BLAIR will today outline a "new welfare contract" requiring most people to pay more for their pensions and social care, leaving the State to provide only for the most needy.

In a foreword to today's Green Paper on welfare, the Prime Minister will argue that all those who can work should work, and declare that the Government can no longer afford the £90 billion bill for social failure.

Under radical proposals in the paper finalised by Mr Blair, people will be expected to set aside more to provide for themselves and their families through savings schemes, personal pensions and insurance. Those who can afford it may also have to pay more for housing and nursing home costs. Better off workers may be taxed on more of their benefits, such as child benefit.

In return the Government is expected to raise benefits for Britain's poorest pensioners and provide extra help for other vulnerable groups, including those who are most severely disabled. Britain's lowest pay workers will be helped through tax credits, the first of which were announced in last week's Budget.

Where possible the Government will encourage joint private/public sector partnerships to provide services. In several cases benefit payments may be replaced by services such as more help in the home for the sick and disabled.

Separate sections of the Green Paper will focus on housing benefit, disability benefits, pension reform and the Child Support Agency. Each of these areas is expected to be followed up by a separate Green Paper in the summer, which will lead to legislation in the next session. Ministers are preparing two to three social security Bills to provide for the new changes, but other measures are for the longer term.

The long-awaited Green Paper drafted by Frank Field, *New ambitions for our country: a new Welfare Contract*, will set out an ambitious list of targets against which the Government will be judged over the next ten years. It will suggest that that State should focus more on improving health and education services, while playing a dwindling role in social security provision.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said last night: "At the heart of the Green Paper is our determination to break the cycle of dependency and insecurity and to replace it with an ethic of work and saving. The Government want to empower all citizens to lead a dignified and fulfilling life. Work for those who can. Security for those who can't and opportunity for those denied it."

But he made clear that more people would have to provide their own safety net. "There will be a new contract between the State and citizens balancing rights with responsibilities. There will be a duty on individuals who can to work and people will be expected to provide for themselves and their families where they can."

The 30 targets which the Government has set include reducing the number of working age people in workless households; reducing the number of unwanted teenage pregnancies; cutting the number of pensioners on income support, increasing the help given to the disabled in kind as well as in cash.

Writing in *The Times* today, Patricia Hewitt, Labour MP for Leicester West, indicates that Mr Field will provide signposts for a new map of welfare reform. Ms Hewitt, a social security expert who was a member of the Social Justice Commission, says that the Green Paper should build on Budget provisions such as the working families tax credit, the childcare tax credit and the national insurance changes that will guarantee more help for poorer families.

Patricia Hewitt, page 22

MICHAEL POWELL



Mary Allen: her appointment to the post less than a year ago was roundly criticised

Covent Garden chief resigns

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MARY ALLEN, the chief executive of the Royal Opera House, resigned yesterday after she and the board decided to go their separate ways.

A statement said that she chose to step down when "it became clear there was a growing difference of views over the future plans for the organisation".

Her departure was no great surprise. Despite a good track record as an arts administrator, it seemed that she was never going to shake off the criticism surrounding her appointment less than a year ago. The Culture Select Committee had last year condemned the way in which she had moved from the Arts Council, where she was Secretary-General, to Covent Garden — one of its clients.

Sir Colin Southgate, the new chairman, and his board want an artistic general director to head the Royal Opera House and its two companies, the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera; not an arts administrator. Yesterday's move appeared to have been precipitated by the departure of Nicholas Payne, the ROH's artistic director, to head the English National Opera.

An ROH spokeswoman said her resignation was accepted at a regular board meeting: "It had become clear that there was a growing difference of views over the plans for the organisation, which Mary Allen believed should be led by an arts administrator."

The acting chief executive will be Pelham Allen, the finance director on secondment from Coopers & Lybrand.

Gerald Kaufman, who chaired the select committee report, said: "Just as when I was told of the resignation of Lord Chadlington [the ROH chairman] and Board, I take no pleasure in this. But it is a fulfilment of the select committee report's recommendations."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hague urges Blair to stop EMU dodge

William Hague called on the Prime Minister yesterday to intervene to prevent the European Commission from fudging the entry criteria for the 11 countries that have been given approval to join the single currency.

The Tory leader said that Tony Blair should use the British presidency of the EU to ensure that the criteria were met in full. Mr Hague said eight of the 11 countries had debt levels higher than the limit set in the Maastricht treaty. Mr Blair will preside over an EU summit in May that is expected to give formal approval for the 11 countries to sign up. They are: Ireland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Austria, Finland, The Netherlands and Italy.

Taking the plunge, page 15

Six jailers suspended

Six prison custody officers at a private jail were suspended from duty yesterday after an inquest ruled that a remand inmate was unlawfully killed during a struggle with warders. Another officer, no longer employed at the jail, has had his certificate to operate as a custody officer in a private jail withdrawn. Alton Manning, 33, from Sparkbrook, Birmingham, died after being put in a neck hold during a violent struggle with officers at Blakenhurst jail, near Redditch, Hereford & Worcester, 2½ years ago.

Drug driver loses appeal

A driver who was banned for three years for smoking a cannabis cigarette lost a High Court appeal. Robin Leetham, 23, a self-employed electrician from Faversham, Kent, argued that the conviction was unfair because of the absence of evidence from the police surgeon that the cannabis in his blood was enough to make him unfit to drive. In drink-drive cases, there is a clear limit on intake. Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Sullivan, said there was evidence to justify the conviction.

Talk of the Toon

Newcastle, which is abandoning its image of brown ale and redundant shipyards, has mounted the latest challenge to Blackpool for the right to stage annual party political conferences. The city, which is successfully fighting to overturn southern stereotyping as a working class industrial wasteland, has sent a 40-page prospectus to the major parties, depicting it as "the romantic and cultural capital of the North East". Labour decided this week to abandon Blackpool as its conference venue.

Legal move over M4 jam

A motorway contractor that caused a 25-mile traffic jam on Mothering Sunday, delaying drivers for up to six hours, could face criminal prosecution. Prismo, based in Crawley, West Sussex, brought the westbound carriageway of the M4 to a standstill when it decided to begin work at lunchtime instead of the evening as agreed with police and the highways authority. At least six motorists are also seeking civil damages for losses including missed theatre performances and damage to over-heated vehicles.

Register to save lives

A missing person's charity has linked up with police forces across the country to try to stop serial abductors and killers before they become established. The National Missing Persons' Helpline hopes that a comprehensive national register of missing people will help to prevent tragedies such as the murders in the Fred West case. Under the initiative, police would send details of every missing person reported to them to the charity, whether they believe the person is likely to return or not.

Diana toys considered

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund said yesterday it had not approved a Sindy-type Diana doll but confirmed it is negotiating with the toymaker Hasbro, which wants to produce a line of Diana-branded toys and games. But a fund spokeswoman conceded that a Diana doll of some other kind was not ruled out, if it met the requirements of the trustees and was judged acceptable to the public. He added that the trustees were in discussion with toy company Hasbro which had made "a wide range of proposals".

15-day deadline set for Ulster talks

Chairman believes ultimatum will force hands of negotiators says **Martin Fletcher**

THE chairman of the Northern Ireland peace talks set a 15-day deadline for their completion last night and said the parties would negotiate almost continuously until that date.

"We believe that the time for discussion is over. It is now time for decision," George Mitchell, the former US senator, said in a statement that significantly increased the pressure on the parties. "The participants have been negotiating for nearly two years. They have engaged in vigorous debate. They have considered the issues at length and in detail. The participants know what needs to be done. It's now up to them to do it."

Mr Mitchell said he was convinced an agreement was within reach. "We are not considering any alternative plan in the event of failure because we believe that failure is unacceptable."

Next week the talks will last five days instead of three, and from April 6 will remain in session continuously until the negotiations are concluded. "We hope and expect that can be accomplished by April 9," he said.

In theory Unionists and nationalists remain far apart on such pivotal issues as the nature of new cross-border bodies and a new Northern Ireland assembly. In practice government officials say the parties all know what an agreement would look like, and Mr Mitchell's statement was clearly an attempt to force their hands.

Neither side can easily make the first concession given the confrontational nature of Northern Ireland politics. Mr Mitchell is likely to end up providing a template to which all parties will be invited to sign up. "The success of these negotiations will require steady nerves and courageous leadership by the men and women in whose hands rests the future of Northern Ireland. We believe they will be up to the challenge," he said.

☐ Northern Ireland's police chief yesterday ruled out IRA involvement in the recent wave of terrorist attacks, but suggested a new terrorist group was coalescing around the former quartermaster general and other dissidents who quit the IRA over Sinn Fein's peace strategy last October.

Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said those dissidents had become a significant force and were involved in the mortar attacks on the police stations in Armagh City on March 10 and in the village of Forkhill, South Armagh, on Tuesday night. Security officials said they also constructed the massive 1,300lb bomb found in Dundalk, Co Louth, last Saturday.

Mr Flanagan's intervention came after Ulster Unionists had once again challenged Sinn Fein's presence at the Stormont talks. "It is my belief the Provisional IRA was not involved in recent terrorist incidents," he told a news conference. "I think there are people with engineering ability and technology who were certainly members of the Provisional IRA who might have stood aside for the moment from that organisation and who might be offering technology and expertise into other organisations."

In the Forkhill attack up to four mortars were aimed at the RUC and army base. One exploded. The village was evacuated yesterday as security forces searched for the other shells.

Blair denies special treatment of BSkyB

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR insisted to MPs yesterday that Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB satellite business would be given no special favours.

Controversy over a telephone conversation last week between Mr Blair and Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister, reached the Commons when the Conservative MP Tim Collins said that the British Embassy in Rome had confirmed that the Prime Minister had interceded on behalf of Mr Murdoch over a television deal.

But Mr Blair, who has totally denied calling Mr Prodi to lobby on behalf of Mr Murdoch, said that the conversation would remain private. His spokesman said later that neither he nor Mr Prodi's office in Rome would give a briefing on the contents of the conversation.

It appears that conflicting statements have emerged from the embassy in Rome, with one spokesman quoted as saying that the matter had been raised and others that it had not.

What is clear is that Mr Prodi telephoned Mr Blair, rather than the other way round. It appears likely that the subject of the bid by BSkyB for Silvio Berlusconi's controlling interest in Mediaset Spa was mentioned in the course of a conversation covering several issues but that there was no question of Mr Blair calling Mr Prodi to lobby him on Mr Murdoch's behalf.

Mr Blair told the Commons: "I have made it clear that BSkyB will be treated no differently from any other company." Mr Murdoch is the ultimate owner of *The Times*.

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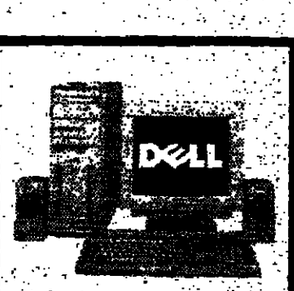
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Student tells how killer kidnapped her

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A 17-YEAR-OLD student *calmly engaged her kidnapper* in conversation after he forced her on an 11-hour journey at knifepoint, Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Debra Van Gerko, 18, was ambushed by Nicholas Burton, 27, who threatened to kill her if she disobeyed his orders and at one point bound and gagged her and stuffed her in the boot of her car. The student did not know that the night before he had slit the throat of Rachel McGrath, 27, a judge's daughter.

Miss Van Gerko's account of the ordeal, which ended as she ran for help across a garage forecourt in North Wales, was read out to the court by Anthony Gee, QC, for the prosecution, on the second day of Burton's trial.

Defence counsel do not dispute that Burton killed Miss McGrath, a building society assistant manager from *Wilmslow, Cheshire*, as she waited to collect her boyfriend in Bramhall, near Stockport, last April. However, Burton, a former sheet metal worker, who claims to hear voices in his head, insists that he was insane at the time. His counsel claim that he was suffering from diminished responsibility and that the murder charge should be reduced to manslaughter.

Burton, from New Mills, Derbyshire, pleaded not guilty to murdering Miss McGrath and not guilty to kidnapping Miss Van Gerko, falsely imprisoning her and making a threat to kill. Miss Van Gerko, who lives in Gatley, Greater Manchester, was on her way to her Saturday job at Marks & Spencer on April 26 last year, when, shortly after 7.30am, she stopped to buy cigarettes. She noticed a suspicious-looking man who made her feel apprehensive. As she was putting the key in her Fiat Panda he thrust the knife toward her and said quietly: "Give me all your money and get in the car please."

With the 9in blade held against her leg, he made her drive through South Manchester to the motorway towards North Wales. Miss Van Gerko, who had never driven on a motorway before, was terrified.

Then, shortly after 11.30am the kidnapper noticed the petrol gauge was low. "He asked, as if it were an ordinary question, 'Have you ever been tied up and put in a boot?' I said, 'No' and asked him whether he was going to do that. He replied, again very calmly, that he might have to *because he did not trust me to*



Van Gerko: had never driven on motorway

be in the car while we got the petrol. I was extremely frightened."

He forced her to park in a cul-de-sac where he ordered her to lie face down in the boot while he bound her hands and ankles behind her with a length of seat-belt he had cut with his knife. He used the *remaining material to gag* her.

"I asked him, 'You're not going to hurt me, are you? Promise?' and he said, 'I hope it is not going to come to that.' He was very calm and I was frightened.

"He began to shut the boot and said, 'Don't scream or I'll kill you.' I felt I was not going to get out of the boot. I began to cry. I cried quietly as I didn't want him to hear. I felt it may make him more nervous and hostile towards me."

After stopping to refuel, she was allowed back into the car. The kidnapper found a spot in *the hills* above Caernarfon, and lay low for three hours during the afternoon. The kidnapper and his victim chatted. Miss Van Gerko said: "I kept asking him questions, trying to appear interested in order to keep him calm. He talked about taking drugs and how he had been able to see pictures in the clouds."

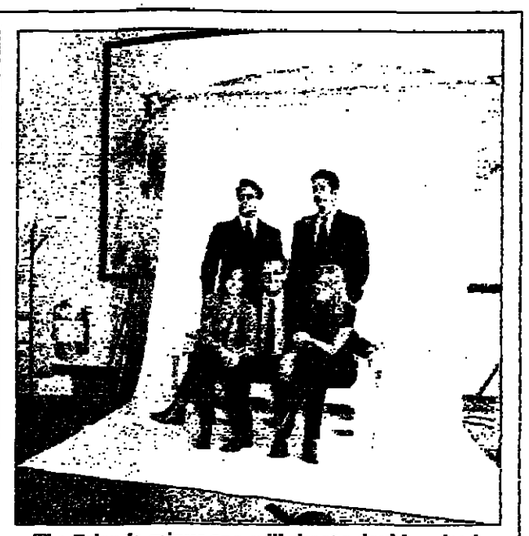
Later, he spoke of the need to fill up with petrol again. Miss Van Gerko was imprisoned with her legs crossed and the seat pushed into an extreme forward position. As her abductor went to fill up, Miss Van Gerko ran towards a taxi, screaming: "The man is going to kill me." The kidnapper drove off.

The trial continues.

CHRIS HARRIS



Jennifer Aniston, who plays Rachel, in London for filming yesterday



The *Friends*, minus one, will shoot a double episode

Make Friends by being obnoxious

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 4 took the precaution of erecting crush barriers outside its building yesterday as the cast of the American top comedy show *Friends* arrived to publicise their latest series.

In the event, the barriers proved a little optimistic. Not a single fan braved the pouring rain to greet the actors and the numerous police officers, waiting to control the surging crowds, had to twiddle their thumbs.

Next week the actors, among America's highest-paid television stars, will test British reserve further when they film a double episode before a live audience in London. Courteney Cox, who plays Monica in the series, said: "I'm a little bit nervous about that. I hope everybody will be a little more like Americans — be a bit obnoxious."

Five of the six *Friends* are in London — Matthew Perry, Matt Le Blanc, Courteney Cox, *David* Schwimmer and Jennifer Aniston. Lisa Kudrow, who plays Phoebe, was too heavily pregnant to fly.

The British actress Helen Baxendale is to join the series in a whirlwind romance with Ross, played by David Schwimmer.

Man arrested over murder of schoolgirl

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

DETECTIVES hunting the killer of the Exeter schoolgirl Kate Bushell yesterday arrested a local man, aged 20.

The arrest was the first big breakthrough in the four months since Kate, 14, was *stabbed to death while walk*ing a neighbour's dog along a country lane near her home in the suburb of Exwick. Immediately after the arrest, a team of officers began an examination of a two-bedroom council house less a *mile* from the dead girl's home.

The *unemployed suspect*, who was being questioned at a nearby police station last night, is believed to live in the house with his mother. A detective in a car outside the house kept callers away. A neighbour said: "We do not know what is going on. We did not hear anything happening there. All we know is that a mother and her son live there and they keep themselves to themselves."

Kate's body was found by her father last November as he helped police to search a field for her. Her throat had been cut and detectives believe the attack was sexually motivated because her clothing had been disturbed.

About 150 detectives have been involved in the investigation, which has already cost £500,000. More than 4,000 DNA samples have been taken, and officers interviewed and fingerprinted all 6,000 people living on the estate where Kate lived. Her father, Jerry, 44, mother Susanne, 41, and brother Tim, 16, were being briefed about developments yesterday, but Mr Bushell said that they did not wish to comment.

Detective Superintendent Mike Stephens, who led the inquiry, renewed his appeal for help two weeks ago when he revealed that police had found a cache of *intricately* folded pieces of lavatory paper and tissues in a dustbin bag just 100 yards from the body. The DNA tests were then compared with specimens from the paper.



Kate Bushell was killed while walking a dog

PC faces sack after assault on youth

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

A POLICE officer with 27 years' unblemished service is awaiting disciplinary action after being fined for slapping a 12-year-old boy who shouted abuse at him.

PC Roger Hateley, 51, was found guilty of common *assault after failing to over*come what magistrates described as a natural desire to react to provocation. West Midlands Police confirmed that disciplinary proceedings will be started into the incident, which could culminate with the officer being sacked.

The constable had gone to a school last May to investigate a break-in when a group of pupils began shouting abuse.

Wolverhampton magistrates were told some of the group called him "pig" and made grunting noises before trying to block his way. PC Hateley, from Solihull, asked them to move aside but they refused.

PC Hateley told the court: "I decided enough was enough and went to grab his shoulder to gain his attention and give him a talking to. But he moved at the last second and my hand struck his neck and jaw."

Fining him £250, stipendiary magistrate Ian Gillespie, said: "As a police constable you are expected to overcome the natural desire to react to such provocation."

The car with one careful owner, and miles of detail

BY JOHN VINCENT

THE late Hewett Clive Carey may have been the world's most meticulous driver. From the moment he proudly recorded delivery of his gunmetal grey convertible on October 4, 1949 (price: £1,000 17s 1d) he took obsessive delight in keeping a record of every mile covered and every gallon of petrol bought.

Each journey, however short, was recorded in a series of logbooks more detailed than those of the *Starship Enterprise*, accounting for all *134,000 miles clocked up* on the Triumph 2000 two-door, open-topped Roadster.

On January 4, 1956, he records: "To the Standard Motor Company, Standard Road, 4 miles." And: "March 2, 1956: Speedometer cable renewed. Dipping mechanism adjusted and clock oiled. To Hanwell: 1 mile. Speedometer reads: 8,485."

Mr Carey, an electrician from the Warwickshire village of Radway, did not stop at that. He wrote to the Triumph Owners' Club giving essays on his foreign holidays, and kept a letter berating his local garage: "I write to inquire whether the car really had been washed, for the four mudguards and tyres have not been touched."

Such laborious details — in 600 pages — were kept right to the day he drove the car into his garage for the last time: September 4, 1994. He died last year and left the vehicle to a friend, Geoffrey Lampitt, who is now offering it for sale at a Sotheby's car auction at the RAF Museum in Hendon, North London, on Monday. It is expected to fetch up to £15,000, and comes complete with Mr Carey's copious notes, the original logbook, his driving licence, every tax disc since 1949, petrol rationing coupons, every MoT certificate, *letters to the Triumph* Owners' Club and pamphlets about the cars Mr Carey rejected in favour of the Roadster.

Mr Lampitt said yesterday: "He sent off for information about three cars, the Triumph, a Morgan and a Singer, but he chose the Triumph because it had the largest boot. He was a very careful and methodical man, and wrote a diary three times a day from the age of nine."

MINOLTA



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As one of the world's great camera manufacturers, picture quality is something pretty close to our hearts, and something many of our competitors choose to ignore.

For example, unfortunately, many of them still use the same rectangular pixel CCD that's used for video. And because this rectangular system has to be converted, the quality of the pictures inevitably suffer.

The Dimâge V on the other hand, has its very own 350k square pixel CCD, which means your pictures can be transferred to your computer with absolute minimal loss of image quality.

And the Dimâge V unlike most other digital cameras has a removable SmartMedia Compact Memory Card. Allowing all your shots to be stored on any number of cards. So you're not limited by a finite built-in memory. Other cameras have to store the information by massively compressing the data with a resultant loss of picture quality.

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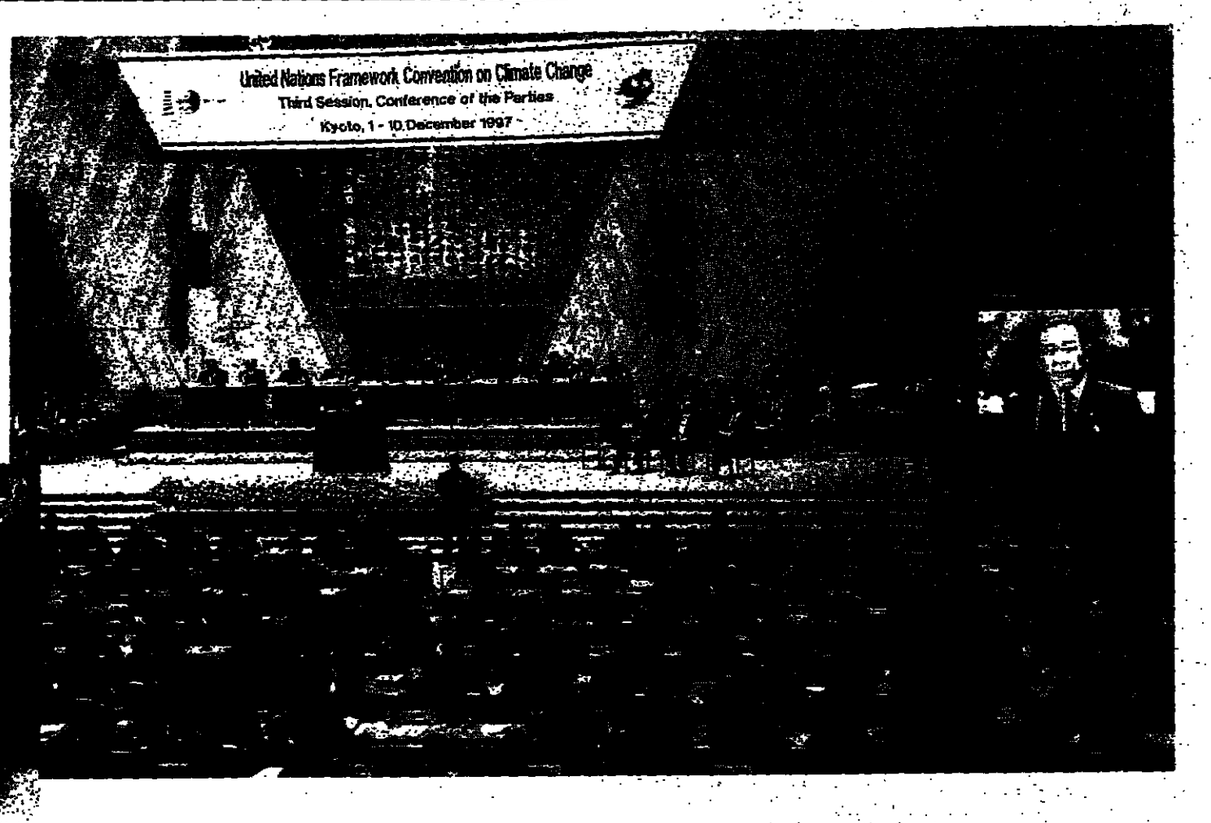
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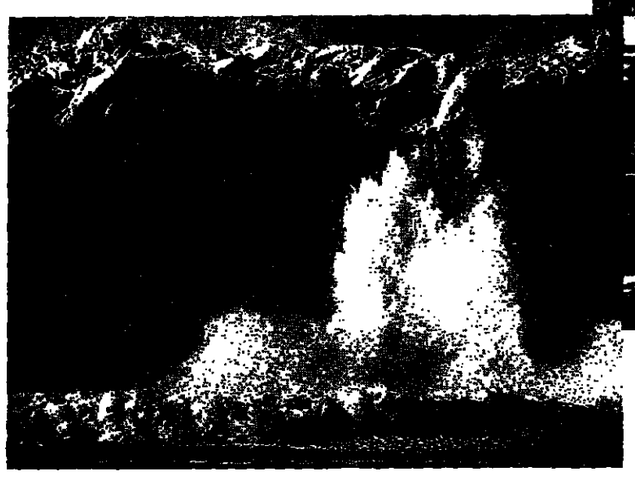
We will work with you

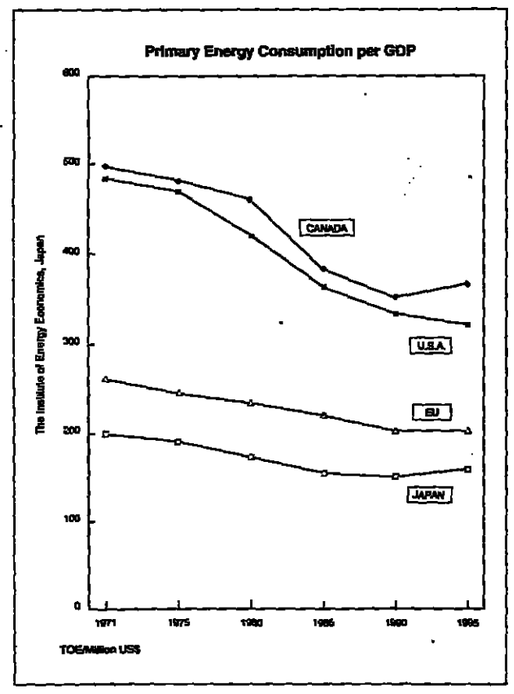
to address global warming

Kyoto protocol—the first step has been taken

The 3rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held last December in Kyoto, Japan, to address the global warming issue after the year 2000. Participated in by about 160 countries including all European nations, the conference adopted the "Kyoto Protocol" which specifies quantified emission reduction and limitation commitments for industrialised nations. It was agreed that these countries will reduce their overall emissions of greenhouse gases by at least 5% below the 1990 levels by the years 2008 to 2012. A binding reduction target was agreed to for the first time, and the conference marked a first substantial step towards the prevention of global warming.







We will work with you

Japan will make utmost efforts to solve the problem of global warming in collaboration with European and other interested countries of the world to resolve the problem of global warming.

European efforts to promote new energy sources and improve the efficiency of electric power generation are well known. On the part of Japan, in addition to pursuing non-fossil energy sources, controlling the emission of non-CO_2 greenhouse gases such as methane and CFC substitutes, we are committed to the following:

1 Energy-conservation that is vital to the prevention of global warming

The implementation of energy-conservation measures in industrial, commercial/residential and transport sectors is crucially important for the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases. Japan will actively implement energy-conservation measures in all these sectors.

2 Strengthening energy-conservation measures in Japan

Japan has already undertaken concrete energy conservation measures under the leadership of Prime Minister Hashimoto. For such products as motor vehicles and electrical appliances, we will introduce new stricter standards for energy efficiency in each of the various product categories. These standards will be set at the highest possible level, both economically and technically.

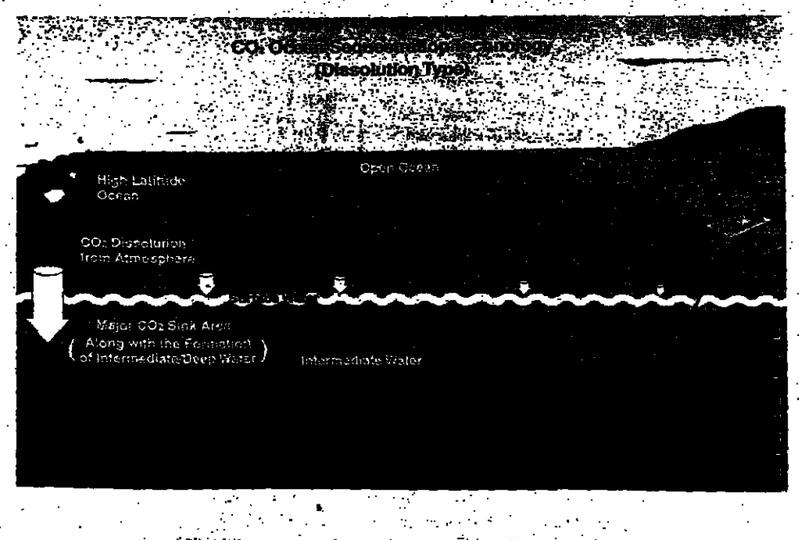
3 Towards sustainable economic development

Energy-conservation measures can promote the development of environment-related businesses. New business opportunities are likely to arise in recycling, manufacturing processes, and improvements in cost effectiveness. Japan will maximise efforts in these areas to ensure sustainable economic development.

For a better, shared future

To prevent global warming, we must not only make concerted efforts to fulfill the commitments of the Kyoto Conference, but also proceed with long-term and global efforts towards our goal over the next century. As the host country of the Kyoto Conference, Japan is firmly committed to this end. For example, Prime Minister Hashimoto proposed the Green Initiative at the Denver Summit last June. This initiative calls for development and diffusion of innovative environmental and energy-related technologies among developed countries, and the transfer of these technologies to developing countries.

Developed countries including European nations issued a Ministerial Statement endorsing this Green Initiative at the Kyoto Conference, these countries also reaffirmed their determination to further promote international technical cooperation to seek a solution to climate change. A feasibility study of large-scale solar electric power generation has been jointly initiated by Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Japan. Norway, the U.S. and Japan also agreed to launch joint research on CO_2 ocean sequestration technology.



The Kyoto Conference was a significant and historical event that crystallised further discussion on the future of the global environment. Japan, in collaboration with other countries around the world, is determined to make every effort to overcome the problem of global warming. For a better, shared future of the earth.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BULLETIN
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Lawrence family 'kept in the dark' by police

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE mother of Stephen Lawrence handed a senior police officer a piece of paper bearing the names of her son's suspected killers, then watched as he rolled it into a ball.

Doreen Lawrence told a judicial inquiry yesterday of her growing anger and frustration over the lack of progress in the murder investigation and the family's poor treatment by police. She said that, from the minute she went to the hospital where Stephen, 18, died from stab wounds, she and her husband, Neville, were starved of information.

Mrs Lawrence, 45, said officers whose job it was to liaise with the family were patronising, and eventually "it just dawned on me at that time as if they had no intention of doing anything about Stephen's murder".

In a 42-page statement, read to the inquiry by Margo Boye-Anawoma, a junior barrister representing the Lawrences, Mrs Lawrence described the breakdown in the relationship with the two police liaison officers, Linda Holden and John Bevan. At first she had trusted them, but within a week of the murder at a bus stop in Eltham, southeast London, on April 22, 1993, that trust had been replaced by disappointment. She said the officers seemed more concerned with the many black visitors to the family's house in the aftermath of the murder.

"It was as if they were checking up to see who was there ... the people in our house were all black," she said. "The people who killed my son were white. Why should they be interested in who was in the house? What I was gathering was this interest in the people of the house and that, as black people, there must be something criminal. If they were trying to build a picture [of Stephen], it was to see if he was in any sort of mischief."

A few days after the murder, the family had started a book



Bethel: did not realise seriousness of injuries

in which visitors to their home could record messages. By then, the names of several of the prime suspects — Jamie and Neil Acourt, David Norris, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson — were known locally and were recorded in the book.

On May 6, after a meeting with Nelson Mandela, Mrs Lawrence had written the names on a piece of paper and handed it to Chief Superintendent William Ilsley, one of the senior investigating officers. "He rolled the piece of paper up into a ball in his hand," Mrs Lawrence said. "I was so shocked. He was not telling us anything, how far they were getting or who they suspected of the murder." The next day, the first two youths had been arrested.

She said police did not warn her, in July 1993, that charges against five youths they were holding were to be dropped. "I was angry and shocked. I wanted to know what was going on. We had no idea why they were dropping charges."

Mrs Lawrence said that, when she found out from a neighbour that her son had been attacked, she and her husband went to the hospital near their home in Eltham, not believing he was seriously hurt. She did not know he had been stabbed until a doctor told them he had died.

She said that, on that night, no police officers had spoken to her or her husband, either at the hospital or at home. The first police officer to arrive at the murder scene told the inquiry that the first aid kit was never taken out of her patrol car. PC Linda Bethel, based at Plumstead, said that, at the time, she believed Stephen had suffered a head injury after being struck with an iron bar, as had first been reported to the ambulance service by his friend, Duwayne Brooks.

She had no idea he had been stabbed in the chest and nothing had been done to stanch the bleeding. She had not examined his body. "I believed the best thing was to leave him where he was. I did not appreciate the seriousness of his condition."

Mrs Lawrence has previously alleged that police did nothing to help her son because they did not want the blood of a black boy on their hands. PC Bethel denied yesterday that her actions were in any way influenced by the victim's colour.

The inquiry, the first part of which aims to establish what went wrong during the investigation into the murder, continues.

ASHLEY COOMBES



Doreen Lawrence arriving yesterday at the inquiry, where her statement was read out

Railtrack's plan to ease delays 'lacks promises'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to invest £17 billion in the railways was announced by Railtrack yesterday. However, it admitted that a combination of outdated track and equipment and a growth in train traffic would worsen congestion over several years before improvements could be introduced.

John Swift, the Rail Regulator, said the ten-year programme contained "very few firm commitments to deliver significant improvements" for passengers and freight customers. He added that he would now investigate whether train operators thought Railtrack's management statement met their needs.

Mr Swift had in the past questioned both the pace of, and the lack of detail in, Railtrack's spending plans. The company responded with a far more detailed statement yesterday, outlining plans for many routes and listing bottleneck areas.

The plan comprises £5.5 billion on maintenance, £7.9 billion on infrastructure renewal, such as track, and £3.1 billion on work to improve the network's capacity. Railtrack also announced that it had invested £1.9 billion in enhancing the network and on maintenance and renewals in this financial year.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, also voiced doubts over the investment programme, and backed the Regulator's plan to consult train operators.

Concerns over the standards of safety on the railways prompted Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, to announce an immediate review of Railtrack's role in setting and enforcing railway safety standards. It will be carried out by the Health and Safety Commission.

Passenger groups and rail unions were also lukewarm about the spending plans. Jimmy Knapp, leader of the RMT union, said it should be treated with "a great deal of scepticism".

In the meantime, train drivers are to be told to slow down on sections of railway that are not properly repaired or maintained. Union leaders announced yesterday that they will issue drivers with warnings of substandard track or signals and they will be expected to reduce their speed to reduce the danger to passengers.

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Refugees' one-way ticket on Eurostar

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND RICHARD FORD

THREE Kenyan asylum-seekers sleeping rough in London told yesterday how they were dumped in Britain by Belgian police who put them on a Eurostar train and told them to tear up their tickets.

They described how they arrived at Brussels after a tortuous journey across Africa and Southern Europe, only to find that Belgian officials ignored their asylum pleas and put them aboard a train for Waterloo without telling them which country it was in.

The three friends, Peter, 30, Magula, 24, and John, 24, all claim to be political opponents of Kenya's President Moi who fled their homes in Nairobi three months ago when Peter, an election agent, refused to take part in vote-rigging.

They are the latest apparent victims of "dumping", which Home Office officials claim has happened to more than 900 asylum-seekers from Kenya and the former Yugoslavia in the past three months. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to demand that the Belgian Interior Ministry take action to stop such treatment of people given seven-day notices to quit Europe's "open-border" Schengen area, which also includes Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland and Portugal.

In January there were 202 such cases, rising to 303 in February and 434 this month. Ninety per cent have claimed asylum and have been given temporary permission to enter Britain while their claims are investigated.

Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, said Mr Straw would be writing to the Belgian Interior Minister after Brussels had failed to respond to an approach last month. Mr O'Brien said: "Being Immigration Minister is rather like being the government plumber. I keep getting reports of floods and I have to go and sort them out," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*. "It takes a short time to turn off the tap and we are certainly determined to sort this out."

> "I asked the Belgian police if Waterloo was the capital of London; they said yes, laughed and said we would be safe there"

Unaware of the international debate, Peter last night huddled over a cup of coffee and sandwich, his first meal for 36 hours, and told how the friends arrived in Brussels on March 21 with no real destination except a vague hope of reaching the United States.

Unwilling to give his surname for fear of victimisation should he be sent back to Kenya, he said their 5,000-mile voyage began two weeks ago when they slipped across the border into Uganda. After hitching lifts on petrol lorries to Egypt they travelled by coach to Morocco, arriving in Spain a week ago. There they spent the last of their money on train tickets north.

On arrival in Brussels, uncertain where they were and unable to speak French or Flemish, they wandered around the railway station until a passer-by took them to the police station, where they asked to apply for asylum.

Instead, Peter claims, they were handcuffed and held in police cells for two days before being taken to a building where Somalis and other foreigners were queueing. "They took us straight inside, past all the lines of people, removed our chains and told us to sit down while they talked very fast to other officials.

"All I could understand was the word 'Kenya, Kenya'," Peter said. "They said if we knew the French or German or Dutch language we could have stayed, but we did not so it was a problem. They also said if we had money they could have released us, but we could not have gone to Germany or Holland or stayed there."

Peter demanded to be taken to the US Embassy, where, he says, he was given $20 and a cup of coffee but politely told that nothing could be done. Police then took them back to the station, where they had arrived two days earlier.

"The police gave us tickets for the train with Waterloo and London on them. I asked if London was the capital of Waterloo, because I thought there might be more than one London," and they said yes, laughed and told us we would be safe there," he said.

"They took us to the train and told us 'When the train starts moving, quickly tear the tickets up or put them in your mouth.'"

The three tore up their tickets and threw them in a rubbish bin and shortly afterwards a guard asked for their documents. "We said we didn't have tickets and he said 'Kenyans' and started looking for them. He wrote our names down and said we would get help, but he told us, 'If you had kept the tickets you could have got more help.'"

The three arrived at Waterloo on Monday afternoon and were searched and fingerprinted by Immigration Service officials before being released with temporary admission documents and told, they claim, to report back on May 1 to learn the outcome of their asylum application.

With just 100 Kenyan shillings and $1 dollar left, they slept rough opposite the arrivals hall in their winter jackets and three pullovers, relying on blankets and handouts from a minister at St-Martin-in-the-Fields and stale bread supplied by a sympathetic Somali nightwatchman. By day they sat huddled in a children's playground in Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank.

Fearful and cold, Peter said they had nowhere to go and knew no one. "The immigration people have been very nice, but there is nothing they can do for us. The Belgians just pushed us out with no money, they didn't even allow us to explain our problems or give us time to rest."

Last night the Refugee Council in South London was attempting to find them shelter. A spokeswoman said: "We want to make sure that whatever the EU Governments agree it does not mean that people are shuttlecocked around and that they are allowed into an asylum process within Europe."

An Immigration Service spokesman refused to discuss individual cases. The K4 committee of the EU which specialises in immigration issues will discuss the row in Brussels today.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the Immigration Service Union both condemned the Belgian action.



SUZANNE HUBBARD

The Kenyan asylum-seekers who have been living in a park by the Thames after being expelled from Belgium

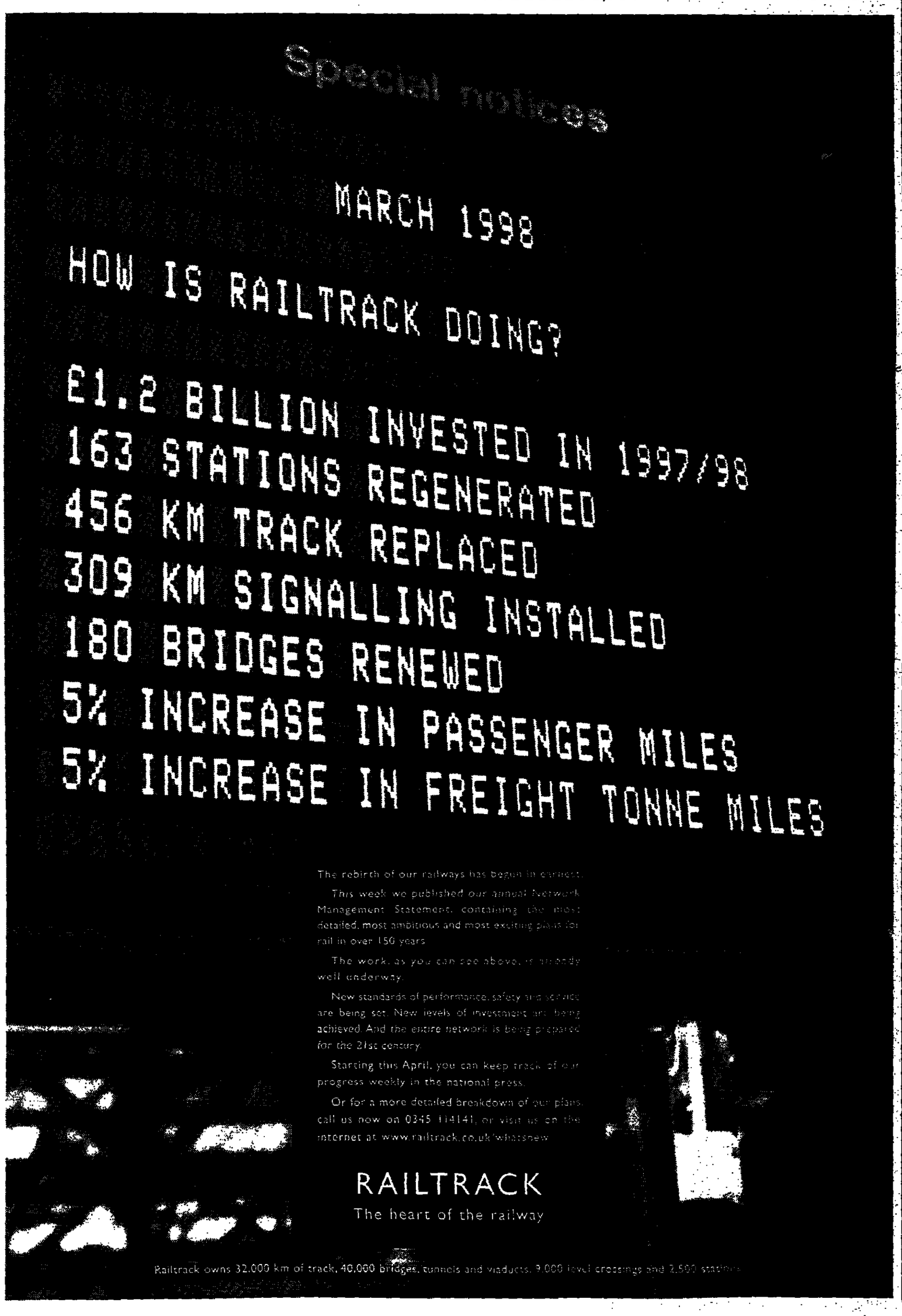
Police demand DNA test in Dickinson case

FRENCH police investigating the murder of Caroline Dickinson have asked for urgent DNA tests on a man arrested last week for allegedly killing an 11-year-old girl in the French Alps (Ben Macintyre writes).

Ludivine Dambrine was found dead in a bathroom at a skiing centre in Albiez-Montrand. Laurent Gasse, 26, a chef, has been arrested.

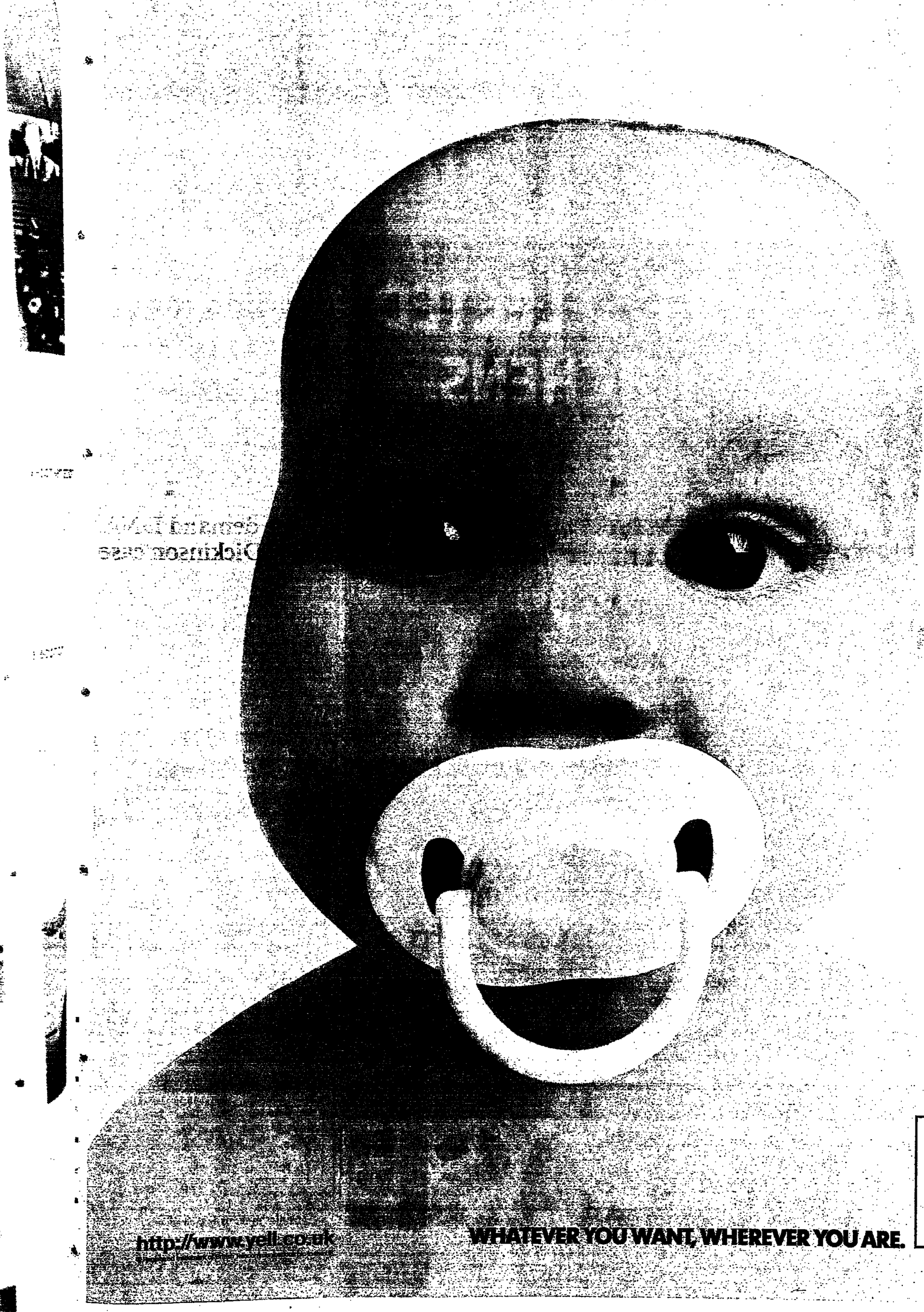
Police said that the attack bore remarkable similarities to the killing of Caroline, 13, from Cornwall, who was raped and murdered in a hostel room in Pleine-Fougères, Brittany, in July 1996. As in the Dickinson case, although children and adults were sleeping nearby in the building, none reported hearing any noise.

Renaud Van Ruymbeke, the magistrate in charge of the investigation, has asked for the DNA tests to be carried out immediately.





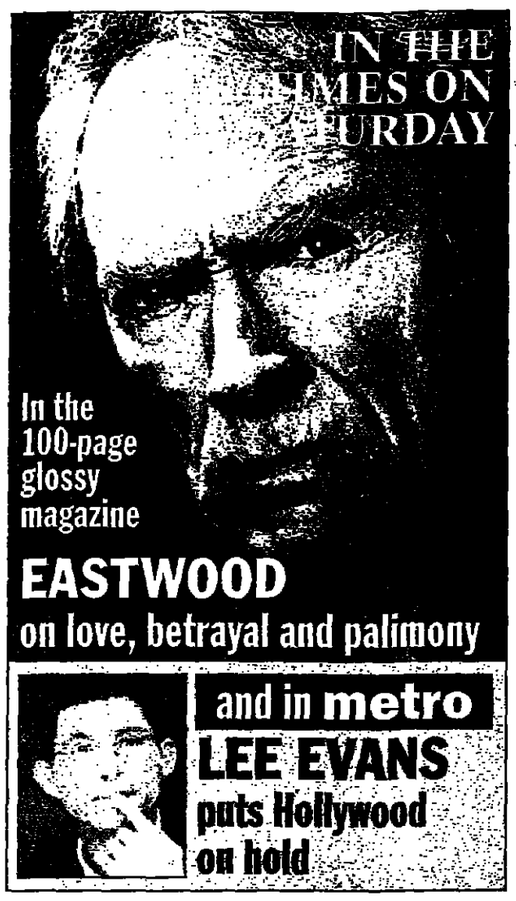
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Crackdown on water firms who drain rivers

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DUKE SUES OVER FISH SHORTAGE

The Duke of Devonshire and nine angling clubs are suing Yorkshire Water for £100,000, claiming that catches on the River Wharfe have been devastated by the amount of water extracted during drought measures. The upper stretches of the river run through the duke's estates at Bolton Abbey. Yorkshire Water denies the claim, saying studies show no effects of abstraction that can be distinguished from natural drought effects. In 1995, the Environment Agency granted a three-year licence to increase supplies to the Bradford area with water from Lobwood and Arthington, near Otley.

WATER companies who drain rivers, fens and wetlands are to lose their abstraction licences under plans unveiled by the Government yesterday.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, told a water conference in London that the Environment Agency would be ordered to use its powers to crack down on water firms pumping excessively from wildlife sites.

Green groups and English Nature have expressed alarm that most of the 79 sites of special scientific interest said to be suffering from over-abstraction and pollution by treatment works will be sacrificed in favour of price cuts for consumers. Although Mr Meacher refused to back calls to save all the sites, he signalled the Government's determination to see funds made available to ensure many more are conserved than had been expected.

Mr Meacher said: "We recognise that abstractions under a small proportion of existing licences are damaging sites specially protected under the EC habitats and species directives or by designation as SSSIs. Where voluntary variation or revocation cannot be negotiated, the Environment Agency should use existing powers to vary or revoke the offending licences and be prepared to pay compensation where necessary."

The battle between price cuts and environmental protection featured at yesterday's conference. Wildlife groups, the water companies, the Government's wildlife advisers and the Environment Agency are keen to see prices kept at current levels to pay for environmental improvements. But Ian Byatt, the Water Regulator, wants to see efficiencies made by water companies passed to customers in reduced bills.

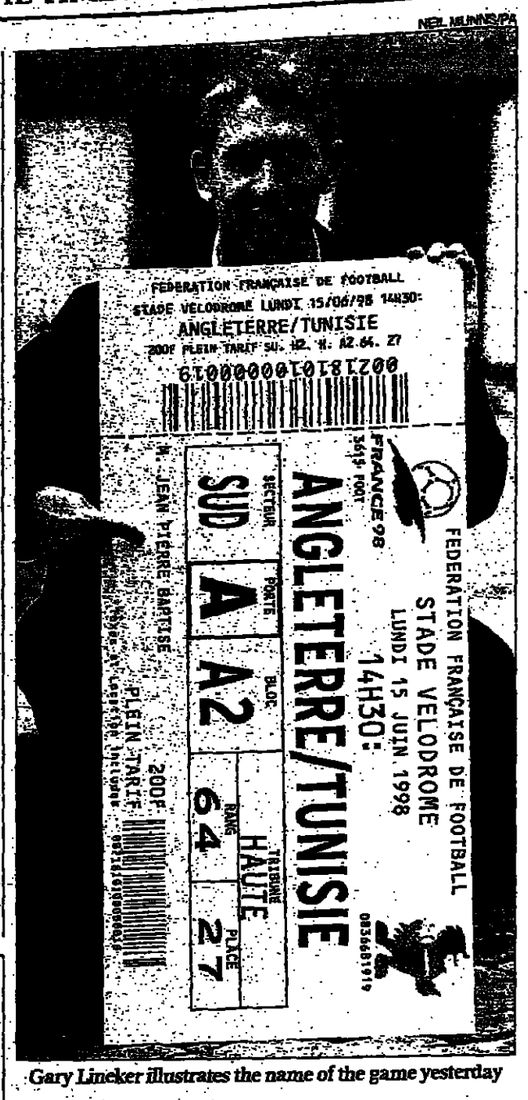
The Government is also believed to see cuts as politically attractive after attacking the water industry while in opposition for paying "fat-cat" salaries and high dividends to shareholders.

But Geoff Mance, the Environment Agency's director of water management, said that environmental gains made over recent years were at risk if price cuts were made in coming years.

He said that there were still over 1,800 miles of polluted rivers. "Over 50 bathing beaches are still failing EU standards and nearly 7,000 poor storm overflows are putting sewage into rivers. We have over 50 SSSIs damaged by over-abstraction and a similar number damaged by nutrient enrichment."

He predicted that over 600 miles of rivers could get worse again if further improvements in sewage effluents standards were not made. Leakage rates remained unacceptably high, at close to 30 per cent, about 47 species of freshwater plants and animals were threatened and in need of urgent conservation under the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

But Mr Byatt said he feared the environment and the consumer would both be losers if bills were pegged rather than reduced. He said he was concerned that the cash flowing into firms would instead end up paying even higher dividends or salaries to executives.



Gary Lineker illustrates the name of the game yesterday

French leave Straw offside on World Cup

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MAIN plank of the Government's £1 million advertising campaign to deter World Cup hooliganism was splintered by French police yesterday when they contradicted the Home Secretary's advice to travelling football fans.

The French are trying to stop touts by insisting that the buyer's name is printed on any ticket bought in France. Jack Straw said he believed that every fan attending a match would have to provide a passport or other means of identification to confirm that they were the ticket-holder. "Our information is that every ticket will be checked against identification at the turnstile," he said at the launch of the anti-hooligan campaign.

Within hours, he had been contradicted by a French official, who said such a system would be impractical and would lead to long delays outside grounds. René-George Querry, head of French police security for the World Cup, said in Paris: "There will be no identity checks when entering the stadium. It would be totally unmanageable to do so."

Mr Straw's simple message for England and Scotland fans was "No ticket, don't travel".



Straw: told fans "No ticket, don't travel"

but the conflicting could tempt some fans to buy a black-market ticket and hope that they are not subjected to a random check.

Fans were warned that they could be fined or jailed if caught with a blackmarket ticket. "I have no doubt that many people think they can simply pop through the tunnel to France and buy a ticket, but there are strict touting laws in France. These will be rigidly applied," the Home Secretary said.

He expressed concern about French plans to show matches live on large screens in the towns where they are played. "We remain anxious about these big screens precisely because they will be a magnet for people without tickets," he said.

"I discussed it last week with Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French Minister of the Interior, and he told me that he intended that there would be fencing around these areas so that there will be good crowd control."

The first advertisements of the £1 million campaign appeared last night, and they will continue on Sky, Channel 4 and Channel 5 until early May. They show English and Scottish fans celebrating getting a ticket in France and walking eagerly to the match, but being turned away when it is found that their names do not match those on the tickets.

A Home Office spokesman later denied confusion over policing of World Cup venues. He said fans would face at least three random checks inside and outside grounds.

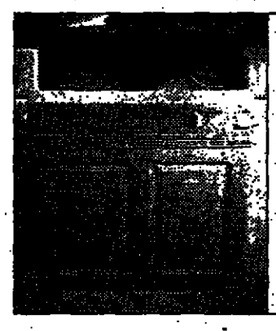
☐ Twenty-nine men in Sunderland were arrested yesterday in early-morning raids by police involved in preventing organised hooliganism at the World Cup. The men were held on suspicion of conspiracy to cause disorder at football matches. More arrests are expected.

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A British film? That's a taxing question

Dalya Alberge reports on plans to lure movie jobs by loosening old rules that restrict cash allowances

THE Government acknowledged the global nature of the film industry yesterday, by proposing a redefinition of the characteristics of a "British" film to allow tax incentives to be extended to foreign producers.

By making Britain a more attractive place to shoot films, the Government's Film Policy Review Group hopes that outside investment and production levels will soar.

Qualification for the tax incentives announced at last year's Budget are still dependent on a criteria set out in the Films Act 1985. As *The Hollywood Reporter* notes this week, the current definition of a "British" film excludes any film in which more than 7.5 per cent of the soundtrack was recorded outside the United Kingdom, even if it was shot in Britain with a local crew.

This meant that the latest film version of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* did not qualify as a British film. It was shot in Britain with a British-dominated cast, but its soundtrack was recorded overseas.

Also, under the current rules, films featuring British actors, writers and directors may still be classed as foreign if they are shot abroad. Last year's Oscar-winner *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes, was judged by the Inland Revenue as not strictly a British film, because much of it was shot on location in North Africa and Europe. Yet, *Judge Dredd*, starring Sylvester Stallone as the American comic-book hero, qualified as British because it was shot at Pinewood studios.

A report by the review group recognised a need to change the criteria, increasing the producers' ability to write off production costs against tax for films costing under £15 million. Extending incentives will draw more films to Britain, giving employment to thousands of actors and technicians. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, also announced that current tax incentives would be extended for another two years.

> "The creative industries make up a huge and growing part of our economy"

The report is a partnership between the Government and film-makers, to transform the structure of the industry. It also responds to calls for investment in the future. There are suggestions for two separate levies — percentages of a film's budget — going to training, script development, marketing and distribution.

Mr Smith said: "The Government places special emphasis on the creative industries. They make up a huge and growing part of our economy." He recalled how Anthony Minghella, director of *The English Patient*, said of the British film industry that it may go home with the Oscars, but someone else went home with the films.

Not surprisingly, the report was generally welcomed. Marc Samuelson, producer of *Wilde*, said: "If the committee can make the proposals stick, this could be very good news." Gary Smith, chief executive of Winchester Entertainment PLc whose films include *Shooting Fish*, said: "This shows a willingness of Government to do something."

However, Alan Parker, the director whose films include *Evita*, said that the report was not as radical as many would have liked. He recognised that the industry could no longer expect the Government to fund its activities.

"It's got rather too comfortable," he said. "They are always asking Government for help". The industry was completely international, so film-makers needed to be able to draw on the best of any country. His best first assistant was American; his best art director was French.

AMERICAN? NO, JUDGE IT AGAIN



JUDGE DREDD: story based on cult comic strip about a man who is judge, jury and executioner in a riot-torn urban jungle. Starred Sylvester Stallone, above — American. Director: Danny Cannon — English. Producer: Charles M. Lippincott, among other Americans. Made in Britain and in Iceland, financed by Cinergi productions, among other American companies. Although widely regarded as an American film, it qualifies as British under the rules.

ENGLISH? NOT IN THE LEGAL SENSE



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY: story based on Jane Austen novel. Starred Emma Thompson, above, Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet and Hugh Grant — all British. Director: Ang Lee — Taiwanese. Producer: Lyndsay Doran — American. Co-producer: James Schamus — American. Executive producer: Sydney Pollack — American. Scriptwriter: Emma Thompson — British. Made in England, financed by Sony. Not counted as British, because soundtrack recorded overseas.

Non-stop Commons coverage on new channel

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A PARLIAMENTARY radio channel carrying non-stop coverage from the Commons is to be introduced by the BBC next year.

It is hoped that the move will placate those MPs, including the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, who are angry that the Radio 4 programme *Yesterday in Parliament* is to be moved to long wave only next month.

The BBC said that digital broadcasting would extend its public service role. It is proposing two other digital radio channels, both of which are subject to approval by BBC governors. One would serve Asian communities and the other would exploit the BBC's unrivalled pop and rock archives.

Matthew Bannister, Director of BBC Radio, said the channel would have access to the BBC's collection of performance, interviews and documentaries. "If we played our archive non-stop it would take two years. And, because we are the largest commissioners of broadcast live music, we are constantly replenishing it," he said.

The BBC is also proposing additional live news and sport for Radio 5 Live on a complementary digital channel.

Sculptor rode with body parts in his rucksack

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A SCULPTOR accused of stealing body parts to use for his work told detectives that he drove through London on a motorcycle with human remains stuffed into a rucksack on his back, a court was told yesterday.

Anthony-Noel Kelly, 42, said he took about 20 anatomical pieces from the Royal College of Surgeons in this manner, including the head and shoulders of an old man and the trunk of a woman with her womb exposed.

He said that, although some of the pieces were heavy, they were limp after being preserved in liquid and could be folded if necessary to fit into his rucksack. During interviews with police, Mr Kelly said that he was trying to "understand death", and insisted that he had treated the pieces with respect. "They were on their way to their final resting place," he said.

The smuggled pieces were used to make gold and silver sculptures that were displayed yesterday at Southwark Crown Court. Laid in a row against a wall, they included the gilded head and torso of an old man, a cross-section of a womb and various painted limbs. Police found two of the plaster casts hanging in chains from Mr Kelly's bedroom ceiling when they raided his home in Clapham, South London, the jury was told.

Mr Kelly and Niel Lindsay, 25, a former laboratory assistant at the college, deny theft. Mr Kelly denies a further charge of handling stolen goods.

Mr Kelly told detectives that he felt he had done nothing wrong in taking the specimens because the college had forfeited its right to them by keeping them too long. The court was told that, after using them for his sculptures, he had buried the pieces in a 6ft by 4ft hole in a field near his family's home in Smarden, Kent. He described how he had told a curious farmer that he was burying a horse.

A leg was later discovered lying near the grave by a builder. Mr Kelly managed to retrieve it and, together with some smaller pieces that he had left behind elsewhere, he hid them in the basement of a friend's house in London.

Mr Kelly also told police that he was a qualified butcher and had worked in an abattoir. The trial continues.

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Voters to regain their voice in capital affairs

Alex Frean on the White Paper proposals to create a mayor and assembly

THE new elected mayor for London will have sweeping powers over the way the capital is run in a post that will be second only to the Prime Minister in terms of personal authority and prestige.

The proposals for the mayor, outlined in yesterday's White Paper, include plans for a 25-member assembly that will give Londoners a direct say in the running of their city for the first time since the abolition of the Greater London Council 12 years ago.

The mayor and assembly, with a staff of about 250, will collectively be known as the Greater London Authority (GLA). It will have responsibility for eight main policy areas: transport, planning, economic development and regeneration, the environment, policing, fire and emergency planning, culture, media and sport and health.

The day-to-day provision of direct services such as rubbish clearance and education will remain with the 32 boroughs. The mayor and assembly, however, will also be able to address London-wide issues outside their direct remit with the aim of improving social, economic and environmental well-being of Londoners.

Although the proposals are intended to replace the many unaccountable, non-elected quangos and committees that run London with a new tier of elected and accountable government, the mayor will have great powers of personal patronage. The assembly will not be able to impeach him or her.

There will be a substantial transfer of powers from central government to the mayor. Two new powerful executive bodies run by the mayor will be created to take over the running of transport and regeneration. The bodies, Transport for London and the London Development Agency, will be directly accountable to the mayor, who will appoint their boards.

A new democratic Metropolitan Police Authority and a new Fire Emergency Planning Authority will be created. They will be funded by the mayor and have assembly members appointed by the mayor on their boards.

The mayor will have an annual budget of some £3.3 billion, but will have no new tax-raising powers. The Government is considering giving the GLA powers to raise additional finance through the introduction of a road tax.

Most of the money for the GLA will come from central government in grants. The rest will come from credit allowances, redistributed business rates and council tax precepts, which already pay for specific services such as the police and the fire service.

Central government will set a floor for spending on vital services, such as policing, but the mayor will have some flexibility for deciding spending priorities.

The GLA will cost £20 million to set up and £20 million a year to run. The running costs will be 80 per cent funded from central government and 20 per cent from the council tax. It will mean an extra 3p a week on the average Band D council tax.

Fourteen assembly members will represent specific areas and the remaining 11 will be London-wide. There will be a distinct separation of powers between the mayor and assembly. The assembly's role will be to scrutinize the mayor's proposals and performance, and it will be able to propose amendments to, and in some cases reject, the mayor's budget.

The mayor will hold an annual state of London debate, attend a monthly question time in the assembly, and face questions directly from voters twice a year.

The mayor will be paid a salary, expected to be about £90,000. Assembly members will also be paid a full-time salary. The new mayor is expected to be in place by March 2000 at the latest.



TREVOR PHILLIPS (Labour)
Age: 44
Odds: 6-1
Career High Point: first black president of the National Union of Students and one of few blacks to become a television presenter — of *The London Programme*
Career Low Point: as a young, left-wing firebrand, he likened Margaret Thatcher to the Ayatollah.
Pros: widely regarded as a safe pair of hands on politically correct quangos and charities
Cons: a recent poll indicated that only 2 per cent of Londoners knew who he was
Charisma factor: urbane, articulate and good-looking
London links: lives and works in the city

STEVEN NORRIS (Conservative)
Age: 52
Odds: 8-1
Career High Point: keeping five mistresses and his job as Transport Minister
Career Low Point: losing four mistresses and his job as Transport Minister
Pros: experienced and shrewd operator in transport, the field Londoners say matters most
Cons: other candidates for the Tory nomination have a much higher public profile; will his womanising past come back to haunt him?
Charisma factor: former used car salesman known for his charm and straight-talking
London links: freeman of the City

KEN LIVINGSTONE (Labour)
Age: 52
Odds: 4-1
Career High Point: standing up to Margaret Thatcher as leader of the GLC
Career Low Point: Margaret Thatcher closing down the GLC
Pros: record as a strong, independent and left-wing GLC leader; strong support among London Labour activists
Cons: Tony Blair dreads his election as his showpiece elected mayor and is looking for a "Stop Ken" candidate
Charisma factor: independence and plain-speaking wins plaudits from supporters and rivals
London links: MP for Brent East; last leader of the GLC

GLENDA JACKSON (Labour)
Age: 61
Odds: 5-1
Career High Point: won an Oscar for her role in *Women in Love*; she also played Queen Elizabeth I in *Elizabeth R*
Career Low Point: admitted she could not ride a bicycle when promoting cycling as Transport Minister
Pros: the only first-rank woman candidate; high public recognition
Cons: inexperienced and lacks authority
Charisma factor: unlike her screen performances, her ministerial performances remain wooden
London Links: MP for Hampstead and Highgate; Minister for London Transport

Is the writing on the wall for first-past-the-post elections?

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

DEFENDERS of first-past-the-post are looking beleaguered. The pace of electoral change is surprising even advocates of reform. On each occasion when the Government has had to take a decision, it has opted for proportional representation. The Blairites have prevailed over opponents of PR, as they did yesterday with the proposals for the London mayor and assembly. These changes have gone well beyond what Labour promised in its manifesto.

By the end of next year, everyone will have experience of other voting systems. This will occur nationally in the elections for the European Parliament in June 1999, and Londoners, the Scots and the Welsh will use PR for the first elections of new representative bodies. Some time in 1999 there may also be a referendum on the electoral system for the Commons, so we could already have had the last first-past-the-post general election.

Voters will have to get used to a mixture of systems. For the European elections, they will have to vote for a list of candidates nominated by the parties. The new assemblies in Scotland, Wales and London will be elected by the additional member system, combining first-past-the-post with a top-up to ensure proportionality.

The choice of methods is not random, and reflects calculations of party advantage. The Blairites like the additional member system because it gives them greater control over the choice of candidates, though the Tories and Liberal Democrats have opted for more democratic procedures. The adoption of the supplementary vote (in which electors mark their first and second choices) for electing the London mayor favours candidates of the leading parties.

The London decision marks the first time that PR has been proposed for local government. John Prescott has always strongly resisted PR for council elections and the recent consultative paper on *Modernising Local Government* contained just a dismissive reference. The prospects of further change have been set back by the Tories' decision to block a Private Member's Bill allowing local councils generally to experiment with directly elected mayors, sponsored by Lord Hunt of Tamworth, the former Cabinet Secretary. But local authorities are the level of government most in need of reform as the series of scandals in one-party councils has shown. Yet the Labour vested interests are also strongest here — a real test case of Blairism versus old Labour.

The main political focus is on the commission on the voting system chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. The conventional wisdom is that it will recommend a mixture of the alternative vote (under which electors rank candidates by preference) with a top-up of additional members to ensure proportionality. Ministers have hinted at adopting the alternative vote for the next election with the promise of a proportional element later. Many constitutional experts argue that such an staggered solution could produce an even more disproportionate result than now. The Government needs to be careful that any changes are seen as fair rather than as gerrymandering to favour Labour — which would give the Tories a real opportunity to counter-attack and halt further electoral reform.

PETER RIDDELL

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ROMFORD OPENS SATURDAY



LORD ARCHER (Conservative)
Age: 57
Odds: 3-1 Favourite
Career High Point: sold a million copies of his first novel, *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less* within a year of publication
Career Low Point: resigned his parliamentary seat in 1974 after a failed investment in an American bank
Pros: a tireless campaigner for the Tory party. Says he will give his salary to charity if elected
Cons: likely to inspire a strong anti-Archer vote
Charisma factor: forthcoming and eminently quotable. Has a talent for grabbing the limelight.
London links: Former GLC councillor

TONY BANKS (Labour)
Age: 54
Odds: 20-1
Career High Point: appointed Sports Minister by Tony Blair, 1997
Career Low Point: immediately made a string of gaffes, the worst being when he called William Hague a foetus
Pros: popular maverick who has a good eye for a photo-opportunity
Cons: may be too gaffe-prone to convince in such a high-profile job
Charisma factor: as funny as a politician gets, but loses as many friends as he gains with his brutal honesty
London links: MP for East Ham; former deputy leader of the GLC to Ken Livingstone

CHRIS PATTEN (Conservative)
Age: 53
Odds: 20-1
Career High Point: winning the 1992 general election as Tory party chairman
Career Low Point: losing his seat at the 1992 general election
Pros: record as a heavyweight Cabinet minister and governor of a big city (Hong Kong)
Cons: has yet to show much enthusiasm for the job — does he really covet the Tory party leadership?
Charisma factor: popular and respected across the parties
London links: educated in Ealing; responsible for London while Environment Secretary under John Major.

FRANK DOBSON (Labour)
Age: 58
Odds: 4-1
Career High Point: appointed Health Secretary, May 1997
Career Low Point: described buisinessmen as "stinking, lousy, thieving, incompetent scum"
Pros: experienced and popular Cabinet figure who is favourite to get Blair's nod as the "Stop Ken" candidate
Cons: will he really quit the Cabinet when he is doing better than expected?
Charisma factor: clubbable and loveable; bawdy sense of humour
London links: lives in a council flat in his Holborn and St Pancras constituency; leader of Camden council in the 1970s

Romans started something back in AD43

Alexander Frean traces the rise of the capital to become a leader in business, finance, architecture and the arts

THE mayor of London, with a potential electorate of five million, will have the second biggest constituency of any elected politician in Europe after the President of France.

He will also head of one of Europe's biggest and most influential areas. The size of the capital's economy, at £75 billion, is similar to that of Russia and Saudi Arabia and larger than those of Thailand, Finland, Greece and Portgual. London accounts for 15 per cent of Britain's domestic product.

International trading began in earnest in AD43, when the Romans developed the port area of the city. Now, 24 per cent of Europe's largest companies by market capitalisation have their headquarters in London; more than 60 per cent of the top 500 companies listed in the American business magazine *Fortune* are represented in London.

There are 561 foreign banks in London — more than in any other city in the world. London is also home to the headquarters of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Maritime Organisation and many other international institutions.

It has a vibrant cultural life. The South Bank Centre is the largest arts centre in Europe. On any one night there are up to 60,000 seats available at cultural events in the capital and there are listings of more than 1,500 events every week, including up to 70 dance performances, 600 rock, pop, folk and jazz performances, and 25 literary events.

There are 35,000 listed buildings in the capital and three World Heritage sites: the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London and Maritime Greenwich.

Nearly 30 per cent of London's total area is made up of parks and green spaces, both within the city centre and the suburbs. London's central business district has more open spaces than New York, Tokyo, Frankfurt or Paris, with aproximately six hectares of open space for every quarter of a million square metres of office stock. London is a cosmopolitan city: one in five of its population is from an ethnic minority group.

Despite the typical Londoner's continual moaning about the city's transport infrastructure, it has the most comprehensive bus networks in Europe and more miles of underground track per head than Paris or Berlin. London is also at the heart of the international travel and communications system. More countries can be dialled directly from London than from any other city. London-New York is the busiest long-haul international air route.

It has a darker side, however. Of the 20 most deprived wards in England, 14 are in London. The city also has a crumbling housing stock: about 35 per cent of its housing was built before 1919, compared with a national average of 26 per cent. More than 230,000 dwellings are considered unfit for habitation.

It is also a city that is slowing down. The average traffic speed in central London during the morning rush-hour has slowed from 14.2 mph in 1974-76, to less than 11.

Leading article, page 23

WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAY

BY MARK HENDERSON

BUSINESSMEN, councillors and likely mayoral candidates welcomed the Government's proposals. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who was installed as 3-1 favourite for mayor by the bookmaker William Hill yesterday, said: "The mayor is going to be a strong mayor. That's important because ...someone has to stand up for London."

Steven Norris said: "The devil will be in the details, but I am broadly satisfied with what Mr Prescott is proposing." Trevor Phillips said: "The arguments over detail are yet to come, but we need a big 'yes' vote on May 7 to give us the fundamental thing that we want." Simon Hughes sounded a note of caution about direct election of a mayor: "It is the policies and process of the assembly, not the personalities possibly in charge, which should be the focus of our attention."

Toby Harris, chair of the Association of London Government and Labour leader of Haringey council, said the need for co-operation between mayor and assembly would revolutionise London government. "This will bring an end to the tit-for-tat politics of old."

Stephen O'Brien, chief executive of the business campaign group London First, said the proposals were a good framework for economic development.

International success stories provide a model

THE plans for a directly elected mayor and assembly for London have been heavily influenced by successful city governments elsewhere (Mark Henderson writes).

New York, Barcelona and Cologne were visited by civil servants investigating possible models for the London authority, and each has influenced the shape of the system announced in yesterday's White Paper.

The London authority, though, will have only strategic responsibilities, with day-to-day services delivered by the London boroughs.

Local government in New York, where the mayor is directly elected and has wide-ranging powers, was one of the principal inspirations behind the London authority, and ministers would like to see a figure of the stature of Rudolf Giuliani, the current incumbent, elected in London.

Mr Giuliani, a Republican, is credited with bringing down the city's crime rate though "zero tolerance" policing.

Barcelona was also an important influence. Barcelona's mayor is not elected directly, but heads a party list. Nevertheless, his election is seen as a contest between individuals as well as parties. German cities such as Cologne have also been important models, as many have switched to electing mayors directly in recent years. Similar voting systems to those that will be used for the assembly and the mayor are in place in Germany.

Great news for PEP investors

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In his Budget, the Chancellor provided further details of the Government's new tax-efficient savings plan, the Individual Savings Account or ISA, which will replace PEPs in April 1999. The good news is that you'll be able to invest up to £5,000 each tax year in an ISA (£7,000 in the first year).

But the best news is that any PEPs you have or take out before 6 April 1999 won't count towards your ISA allowance. And your PEPs will enjoy the same tax benefits as ISAs from that date. In other words, you can hold onto your PEPs for as long as you want – there's no need to transfer PEPs to ISAs to continue benefiting from the great tax breaks on offer.

However, you won't be able to invest in a PEP after April 1999. Which means you have only two more PEPs left to make the most of your opportunity for tax-free savings. One that you must take out before the end of this tax year on April 5, and one next tax year. With just two PEPs left, you'll want to choose them wisely.

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You can invest a lump sum of between £1,000 and £6,000 each tax year in a Virgin Growth PEP. Or you can save from £50 a month. But if you want to invest this tax year, you'll need to get your skates on, the deadline is April 5. Call us now for an information pack.

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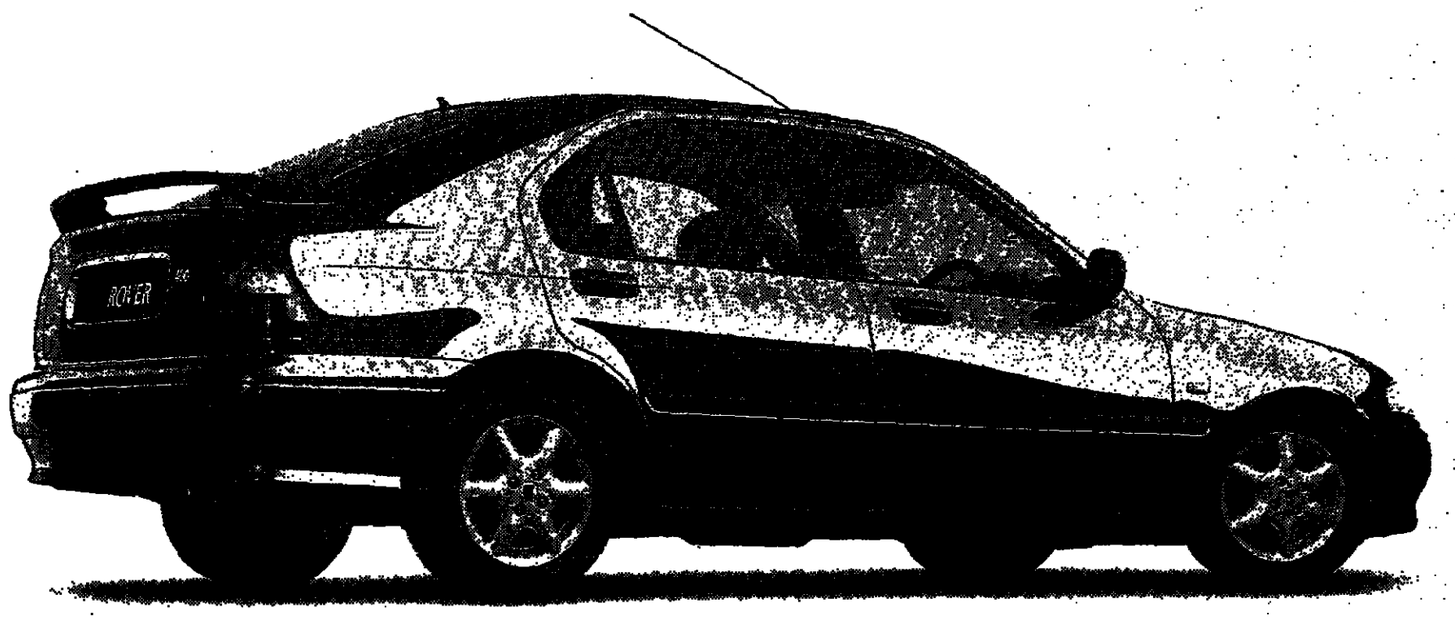
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Forces will train senior officers to fight racism

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

EVERY senior officer in the Armed Forces is to receive instruction on race relations and equal opportunities to underline the latest Ministry of Defence drive against discrimination.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, said yesterday that he would be among the first to attend a new programme of seminars on equal opportunities which will start in July, when a special centre for selected officer training is opened. All 494 officers of one-star to four-star rank will be obliged to attend, to hear how equal opportunity employers are expected to behave.

The centre at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, is principally to provide courses for designated equal-opportunities officers to ensure that promotion chances are the same for black, Asian and white personnel.

Details emerged yesterday when the Commission for Racial Equality declared that it had decided to lift the threat of a non-discrimination notice against the Ministry of Defence. Under the Race Relations Act, the MoD faced the possibility of having officials intervening whenever the commission felt it necessary.

A commission investigation began in 1994, after the Household Cavalry was accused of discriminating against a black soldier who applied unsuccessfully to join The Life Guards. Two years ago, the commission found that the Army and the MoD had committed acts of racial discrimination and warned that it would issue a non-discrimination notice.

Agreement was reached for a voluntary five-year plan to improve race relations and to recruit more young men and women from ethnic-minority backgrounds. Last year, the CRE did not lift the threat of a formal notice, but gave the MoD another year to make further progress.

Yesterday Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the commission, said he was convinced that senior commanders were taking "vigorous action". His announcement was made at a press conference attended by John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, and General Guthrie.

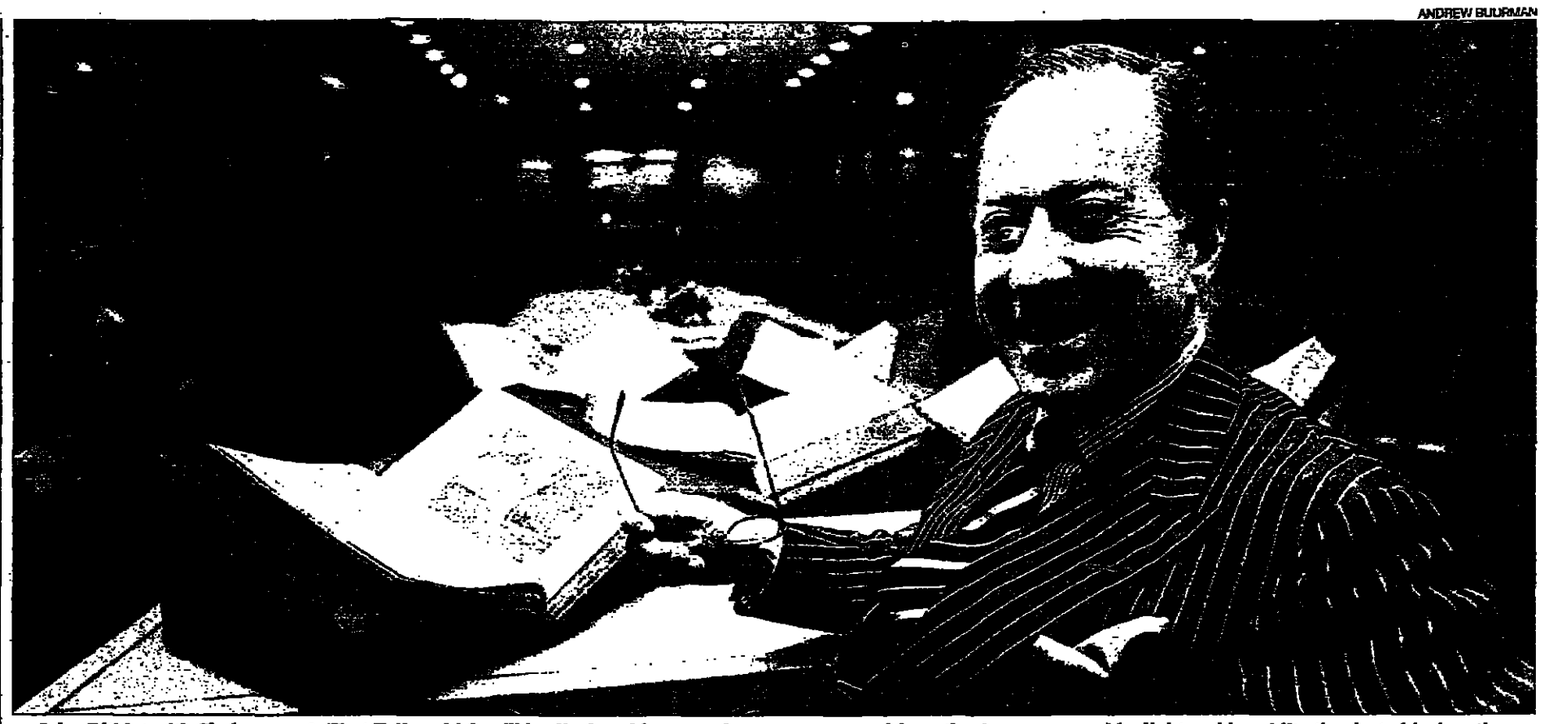
From next month, the goal for each service will be to recruit 2 per cent of the annual intake from ethnic minorities and for this proportion to rise to 5 per cent by 2001-02.

General Guthrie and Sir Herman signed a partnership guaranteeing five years of close co-operation. Sir Herman said it was the first of its kind and could serve as a model for other organisations.



Guthrie: among first on the new course

ANDREW BUURMAN



John Ritblat with Shakespeare's First Folio, which will be displayed in an environment protected from the damage caused by light and humidity thanks to his donation

British Library given £1m to display treasures

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Library has been given £1 million by a businessman, enabling it to transform the displays of some of the nation's most splendid treasures, including Magna Carta, Handel's Messiah and the Lindisfarne Gospels.

John Ritblat, the property tycoon and a collector of antiquarian books, said: "My own interest in books has given me a lot of pleasure and I am very proud to support the finest library in the world and to bring its unique contents to the widest audience possible."

He was particularly excited about endowing the largest of the library's new exhibition spaces at St Pancras, enabling it to display objects that were too delicate to be shown in the previous galleries at the British Museum. Each cabinet will have its own air-conditioning system, protecting the historic objects from the ravages of light and humidity in a wholly artificial environment. John Ashworth, chairman of the British Library Board, described the gift "as a munificent gesture of personal support". Such donations, he added, meant that the library could ensure free access to its greatest treasures.

Mr Ritblat, who is on the board of the British Library, is chairman of the British Land Company, which owns the Broadgate Centre in the City, among nationwide commercial properties, and has assets of about £6 billion. He is passionate about the arts: he is a director and member of the governing body of the Royal Academy of Music, and has donated several million pounds to exhibitions. Most recently, he helped the Tate Gallery to buy the Joseph Wright of Derby *Vesuvius* and he has sponsored the new British catalogue of the National Gallery's collection. "I treat it all as an educational process. I'm interested in the environment and education and things that flow from that: the arts and sports," he said.

The British Library treasures, which also include the Gutenberg Bible, Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623, manuscripts by Jane Austen and Thomas Hardy, and Beatles manuscripts, will be housed in The John Ritblat Gallery, which will be open, free of charge and seven days a week, from April 21.

Pet helpline benefits from awards

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

A TELEPHONE helpline for people mourning the death of a pet has been awarded lottery money in the latest round of grants announced today by the National Lottery Charities Board.

The Blue Cross, the animal welfare charity, said it would use its £180,421 award to help expand its Pet Loss Befriending Service from a small pilot scheme to a nationwide service. Juliet Hillier, a spokeswoman for the charity, said that 2,000 people had called the helpline in its first three years. The number was expected to double in the first year of the national service. "For a lot of people, losing a pet is their first experience of bereavement. We help to provide people with coping strategies," she said.

The lottery awards, part of a £100 million programme to improve people's living environment and develop the voluntary sector, include £600,000 for Dogs for the Disabled, which trains dogs to assist people with disabilities perform tasks such as loading the washing machine and answering the telephone. The Michael Elliott Trust, which provides facilities for children with disabilities to care for and ride rescued donkeys, is to receive £339,351, and the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy, which helps mentally ill or disabled people, receives £150,000. The board also announced grants worth £12.5 million for projects providing support to women, including a number of shelters for battered wives.

More than 200 projects to help house homeless people will receive grants totalling £27.5 million. The biggest, £1.1 million, goes to the charity Shelter for a project to help homeless families move to permanent accommodation.

Nearly 300 projects benefiting older people will get £21 million, 174 village and community centres will receive £9.8 million, and 247 projects to develop the voluntary sector will share £29 million.

Church to rethink ban on lottery cash

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Church of Scotland is on the verge of ending its opposition to accepting National Lottery money — if only as a last resort.

A Kirk report published yesterday recommends a relaxation of the ban, claiming that abstention could eventually damage the work of the Church and allow buildings to fall into disrepair.

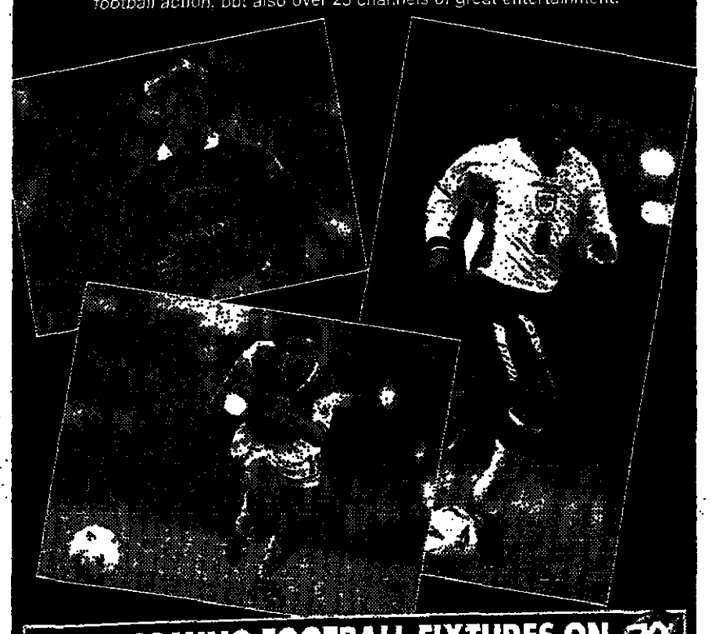
While restating the Church's disapproval of gambling, the report by a special commission says that applications to the lottery could be made if no alternatives were available but should not supplant Christian giving.

The change is the culmination of a two-year debate. Those in favour have argued that taking lottery cash is a way of "putting bad money to good use" while those against view it as tainted money.

However, at least two churches have already benefited after community groups applied for cash on their behalf. The report will be presented to the general assembly in May.

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Manchester United v Liverpool – 19 April
Blackburn Rovers v Arsenal – 13 April
Coventry City v Liverpool – 19 April
Derby County v Leicester City – 26 April
Crystal Palace v Manchester United – 27 April

FA CUP AND COCA COLA CUP
Newcastle v Coventry City or Sheffield United – 5 April
Chelsea v Middlesbrough
Nationwide League – May

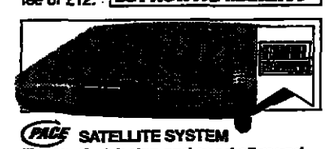
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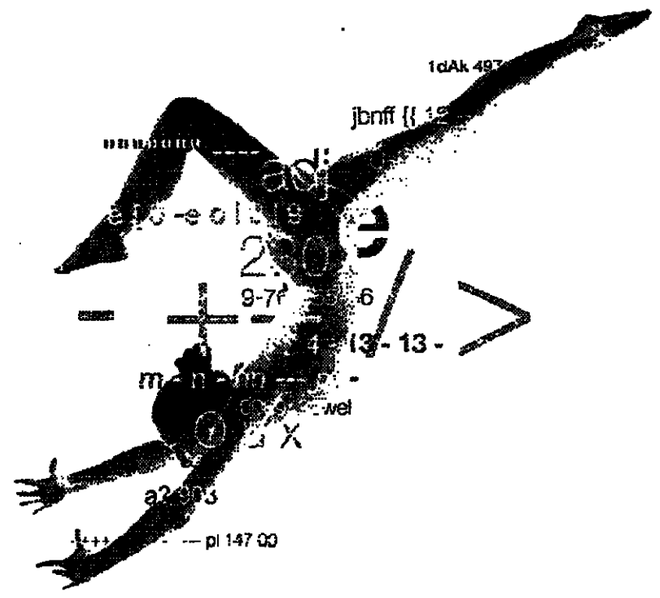
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Rise of 'new lad' boosts smoking and drinking

Survey finds trend towards healthy living has reversed, reports **Mark Henderson**

HEALTH experts are blaming the rise of "new lad" culture for an increase in smoking and drinking among the young.

More than two fifths of men aged 20 to 24 smoke, the highest proportion in any age group. Women of 20 to 24 are not far behind, with more than two thirds lighting up, according to the latest official survey of British lifestyles, published today.

Young men are also the heaviest drinkers, with 41 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds drinking more than the recommended limit of 21 units of alcohol a week; 24 per cent of young women exceed their safe weekly level of 14 units.

Both sets of figures in Living in Britain 1996 show increases on 1994, when data on drinking and smoking was last collected, and reverse recent trends.

Heavy drinking rose by 6 per cent among young men and by 4 per cent among young women, while remaining stable in all other age groups for both sexes. It is the first significant rise since the survey first monitored drinking habits in 1984. Smoking increased by 2 per cent in the 16 to 19 age group, and overall levels of smoking went up among both men and women for the first time in the survey's history.

Health campaigners noted that the "new lad" phenomenon had glamorised drunkenness and tobacco smoking. Mark Bennett, of Alcohol Concern, said there were huge pressures on young people to drink heavily. "Over the past few years we have seen the rise of a 'cigarettes and alcohol' culture, where much of the social focus for teenagers and twentysomethings revolves around getting drunk. There has been a backlash against political correctness and healthy living."

Young people tended to laugh off the negative effects of alcohol, rather than heeding the warning of a hangover, he said. The character Rowley Birkin, QC, in the BBC comedy series *The Fast Show*, whose catchphrase is "Of course I was very, very drunk," was typical of the attitude that drunkenness was funny rather than dangerous. "We are guilty of laughing off the problems of alcohol rather than accepting that alcoholism is a serious problem that starts off as a small one."

Press coverage of the beneficial effects of alcohol and changes in the Government's sensible drinking advice in December 1995 had also led to lower awareness of the dangers of heavy drinking, Mr Bennett said.

Amanda Sandford, of Action on Smoking and Health, said men's lifestyle magazines such as *Loaded* and *FHM*, and aggressive promotions aimed at the young by tobacco companies, had contributed to the upturn in smoking.

"Cigarette firms are advertising in these magazines and handing out free cigarettes and lighters in nightclubs to push their products on the young," she said. "There is also lots of media pandering to the 'new lad' image, which makes cigarettes look cool."

Young people were aware of the health risks of smoking but ignored them because of the current fashion to live for the moment, she suggested. Greater disposable income among young people was also making it easier for them to afford to smoke.

Smoking among men also varies with background: men in households headed by someone of an unskilled manual background are over four times more likely to smoke than those in households headed by a professional.

Further evidence of the growing influence of laddish culture came in the popularity of pub games such as pool and darts, which are enjoyed by more people than go jogging or play tennis or football. More men had played snooker, pool or billiards in the four weeks before they were interviewed than any other sport.

Gangs use club door staff to run drug sales

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

GANG members are working as door staff at dance clubs to make sure they dominate the drug-dealing inside, a Home Office report says. Club owners and honest doormen face intimidation and violence if they get in the way.

The report was issued as local authorities were being given greater powers to curb suspect clubs. The Home Office announced that a new right for authorities to order the immediate closure of clubs where police have found evidence of drugs or dealing would take effect from May.

Some door staff are serving as drug wholesalers, suppling the substances sold by a network of people on the dancefloor. Others are intimidated or bribed to turn a blind eye. Only a minority of door staff are involved, says the study, *Clubs, Drugs and Doormen*, which highlights activities in Liverpool and Newcastle upon Tyne.

In Liverpool, the police found that 49 door supervisors were of interest to them: nine had previous convictions for drugs; 28 had convictions of violence; 27 had charges pending, including three attempted murders and two murders. A registered security firm took control of a large section of door supervision through bribery, intimidation and attacks on those who refused to leave. Once in control, the criminals behind the firm moved to dominate drug dealing in premises they were supposed to be protecting.

Any licensee who refused to accept their services was threatened with disturbances. The supervisors either sold drugs in the clubs or "taxed" other dealers operating.

After a police investigation, the company ended its operations, but within 15 months a second company emerged as a major force in door security in Merseyside , Warrington, Manchester and Southport.

In Newcastle, the study found that, while door supervision was not as organised as on Merseyside, drug gangs intimidated and used violence to force existing supervisors to approve drug dealers operating in the premises.

On one occasion, the gangs called a strike by door supervisors to demonstrate their power. "Those who ignored the strike were threatened with violent retaliation", the report said.



SOPRAINTENDENZA ARCHAEOLOGICA, SALERNO

Details of the dinosaur's organs and muscles can be picked out in the fossil discovered in southern Italy. Below, a model of the ten-inch baby

Surprise baby is delivered 113 million years overdue

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A WELL-PRESERVED baby, barely ten inches long, is the first dinosaur to be discovered in Italy. The new species, related to *Tyrannosaurus rex*, was a flesh-eater that died 113 million years ago when little more than a hatchling.

The creature was buried in fine limestone in a shallow lagoon and is finely preserved. Soft tissue, including muscle, gut, colon and traces of liver, can be clearly distinguished.

The find is reported in *Nature* by Christiano Dal Sasso, of the Milan Museum of Natural History, and Marco Signore, of the University of Bristol.

"It is the first time soft parts (internal organs and muscles) are so represented in dinosaurs," Dr Signore said. "This is unique also because it is the first time a dinosaur has been found in Italy. Until three years ago no geologist here even supposed that dinosaurs could be found here. It should mark a new point for Italian geology."

The fossil was discovered in the Matese mountains, north of Naples. Although it is an area rich in invertebrate and fish fossils, no one imagined it contained dinosaur remains.

The Italian creature does not belong to any known species and so has been given a new name, *Scipionyx samniticus*. This was derived from Publius Cornelius Scipio, the Roman military consul who fought in the area, and Samnium, the ancient name of the Benevento province where the fossil was found.

The dinosaur resembles the coelurosaurs, small, nimble dinosaurs with long flexible necks, small heads and relatively long arms and hands. The head of *Scipio* is large, but that is because it was only a baby. How large *Scipio* would have grown is not clear but, like crocodiles, dinosaurs grew prodigiously once hatched.

The new specimen has a wishbone, which helps to clear up a long-standing argument about whether any dinosaurs had this most bird-like of bones. Wishbone-like structures had been tentatively identified in other dinosaurs, but their state of preservation made a definite identification difficult. In this case there is no doubt.

The fossil, although well-preserved, gives no hint of the creature's skin. This is a disappointment because there are still uncertainties about dinosaurs' skin, including the texture, colour and hairiness.

About 350 species of dinosaurs have been described. They inhabited the Earth for 165 million years before dying out 65 million years ago.



Farmer who lost brain returns to work



Smart: unbelievably brave, his surgeon said

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A FARMER who lost a large part of his brain after a freak accident was back at work yesterday, nearly four years after doctors said he would never recover.

Will Smart, 34, underwent more than 20 operations after his face and skull were smashed when a giant tyre exploded in his face. The explosion sent shards of metal deep into his head and surgeons were forced to remove a significant proportion of the left-hand side of his brain.

Yesterday, as he returned to his job mending machinery on the family farm near Bristol, Mr Smart said: "I know I am lucky to be alive. I have got the surgeons to thank for it because, with the injuries I suffered, I know I shouldn't be here today."

The accident happened as he was inflating the tyre of an earthmoving machine. The tyre burst with such force that the bang was heard a mile away and its heavy steel wheel rim was hurled 60ft, smashing Mr Smart's skull as it went.

A surgeon at the specialist neurological unit in Bristol's Frenchay Hospital told Mr Smart's parents, Colin and Jan, that their son had only a "very slim" chance of survival. Brian Cummins, the consultant neurological surgeon who performed the operation, said yesterday: "He was in a terrible mess. His face was blown away. The left-hand side of the skull was missing and the sinuses and forehead were in an awful state.

"The brain was full of tiny fragments of skull and metal. I remember him being unbelievable brave about the whole thing. It is all about determination to survive. I wish him all the best and I would like him to know that I admire him for the courage he showed."

During the delicate operations, surgeons removed hundreds of tiny fragments of metal from his brain. A 40lb clamp was used to hold his head together during surgery.

Mr Smart spent six months in hospital and was expected to suffer irreparable brain damage, if he survived at all. But he gradually improved after each of the operations.

The most noticeable effects he suffers are a poor short-term memory, difficulty concentrating and the loss of his sense of humour.

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Computer predicts warm early summer

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE spring should be mild and early summer relatively warm, according to a long-term forecast for Europe published today. But travellers should be warned that Southern and Central Europe may be wetter than normal.

The forecast was produced by a computer model at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts at Shinfield Park in Reading, Berkshire. It has already successfully predicted the mildness of this winter.

In *Nature*, a team from the centre led by Tim Stockdale reports that its model, which links data from the oceans and the atmosphere, is increasingly successful at predicting weather patterns up to five months ahead. Forecasts made in April 1997 predicted the unusual tropical weather patterns caused by El Niño, and the pattern of rainfall in Europe in the summer of 1997. "It was wet in Central and Southern Europe over this period. This was predicted by our model," Dr Stockdale said yesterday.

The centre is supported by 21 European countries and its task is to devise effective methods of forecasting the weather several months ahead. They do this by feeding data into their model and then running it repeatedly on their computer. Even though it is one of the most powerful machines in the world, each run takes ten hours.

Patterns emerge if each computer run is repeated 30 times. Last year, 90 per cent of these runs correctly forecast that Europe was in for a mild winter.

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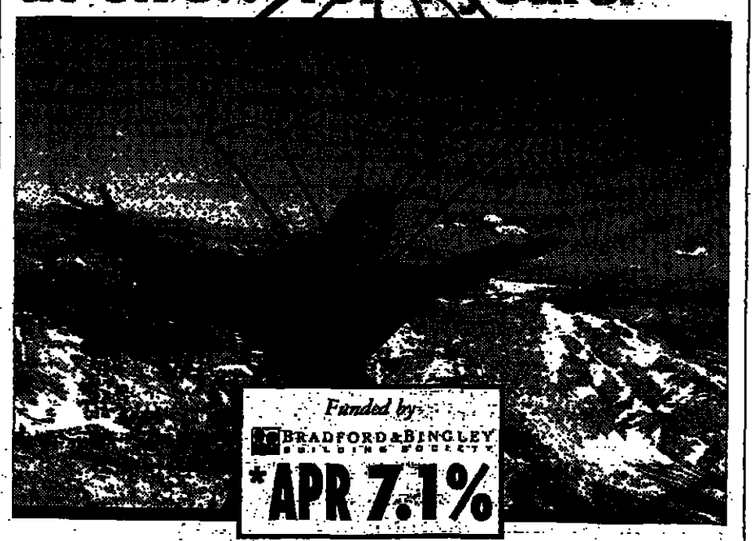
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Euro club takes currency plunge

Italy's soaring debt worries bankers as 11 states indulge in a rare show of self-congratulation, Charles Bremner writes from Brussels



YVES HERMAN : REUTERS

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, European Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, listens as 11 nations are recommended for inclusion in monetary union

EUROPEAN leaders basked in mutual congratulation yesterday after the European Commission proclaimed 11 states qualified to embark on monetary union, a project that it promised would open a new age of prosperity.

However, qualms over the fitness of Italy from the European Union's monetary guardians cast a slight cloud over an announcement which, although widely expected, prompted special celebration in the South.

"Today, the history of a united Europe begins," said Professor Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister. "We must celebrate this event ... It has been arduous for all 11 countries, but it has been particularly difficult for Italy."

Europe would now become an economic power, said President Chirac, whose predecessor, François Mitterrand, won the agreement of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in 1991 to merge the mark into a single currency in return for French commitment to political union. "This is the beginning of a new era. We are giving ourselves a monetary tool which will be one of the most important in the world," said M Chirac. Less euphoric, Herr Kohl said the Commission's verdicts marked "an important day for Europe".

In a less rosy report than the Commission's, the European Monetary Institute, Europe's future central bank, questioned the soaring national debts of Italy and Belgium and wondered about their ability to keep their budgetary houses in order. It also called for efforts by France and Germany to keep up the debt-cutting reforms launched at Maastricht in 1991.

Despite misgivings in The Netherlands, which is openly worried about the risk of the lira diluting the euro, EU leaders are all but certain to endorse the Commission's "euroland" list when they meet under Tony Blair's chairmanship in May. The currency should be launched, next January, among Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Ireland, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Italy. Greece has failed to qualify and Britain, Denmark and Sweden have chosen to stay out.

The Commission stored up trouble for a future British application by ruling out Sweden on the grounds that it had not complied with a rule requiring membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM). This granted Stockholm's wish to be excluded despite its lack of a British-style opt-out at Maastricht. However, it jarred with the acceptance of Finland and Italy, which will not have been inside the ERM for the statutory two years.

Britain insists that it can join monetary union without re-entering the ERM, a view given some backing yesterday by Jacques Santer, President of the Commission. A stable exchange rate was more important than ERM membership, he said.

Mr Santer greeted the EU's success in pulling its economies into line as "the culmination of a historic process" that had begun with the Common Market's abortive first plan for monetary union in 1970. EU officials were relishing what they see as their vindication in the face of sceptics. "Even a year ago no one would have believed this was possible," said Mr Santer.

The Commission noted, however, that the "outstanding" progress in cutting deficits, inflation and interest rates and the launch of the euro would "not on its own enable the scourge of unemployment to be swept away".

Rivals contend to scale topmost height of Babylon Tower

FROM ROGER BOYES IN FRANKFURT

THE Dutchman, Wim Duisenberg, speaks in a deep baritone and casts his patrician gaze over the Frankfurt skyline. But his ruling yesterday on the future composition of "euroland" lacked the umpire's authority needed to build confidence in what is still a fictional currency.

That has been part of the problem of the European political class as it tugs the continent towards a single currency. To appease sceptics, the politicians have set up seemingly significant controls. Yet the European Commission which pronounced on the European line-up yesterday has always had an interest in the broadest possible membership.

The Bundesbank, which is expected to make the harshest judgment on euro contenders, is rapidly becoming a lame-duck. Its head, Hans Tietmeyer, is to address the German Cabinet tomorrow, a smooth piece of co-opting by the Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, who will present the meeting as qualified approval for his plan to scrap the mark.

Yesterday the European Monetary Institute — the embryo European Central Bank — showed that it, too, was powerless to hold up the euro stampede. How could it be otherwise? Mr Duisenberg still does not know whether he will head the Central Bank and manage the euro from this summer. "I do admit that the argument now raging is not very good for the credibility of the future European Central Bank."

French objections to him, and their championship of Jean-Claude Trichet, are as stubborn as ever. The talk now is that the position may not even be filled by the May European summit. And so, a matter of months before the euro is due to be introduced, a non-existent Central Bank finds itself without a head, without the necessary staff and without a clear philosophy.

There are 350 staff, mainly borrowed from national central banks. Most of their contracts run out at the end of the year when the chrysalis of the European Monetary Institute turns into the butterfly of the European Central Bank.

The plan is to have a staff of 500 — small compared with the legions working for the Banque de France or the Bundesbank — yet the bank is having problems finding new economists and hanging on to its present ones. "I can't wait to get back," says a Bank of England man. The salaries are mediocre by central bank standards.

There is no agreement on any fundamentals. Should the bank use the French or German method of tracking monetary targets? Should monetary targets be complemented by an inflation target? How much of the European Central Bank reserves should be held in gold? What should be the relationship between the bank and national central banks? Should power be concentrated in Frankfurt, as the Germans prefer, or decentralised as the French are arguing? Frankfurt taxi drivers call the bank Babylon Tower.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cyclone kills 125 in India

Danton, West Bengal: At least 125 people, including 35 children in one school, were killed when a cyclone whipped through villages in coastal areas of West Bengal and Orissa states in eastern India. At Goborghata, children between the ages of five and 15 were crushed to death as their school collapsed on top of them. A storm earlier struck Bangladesh, killing 28 people and injuring more than 100. *(Reuters)*

Murder pair jailed

Rome: Two men accused of helping the "Monster of Florence" to murder courting couples in the Tuscan countryside were jailed (Richard Owen writes). Mario Vanni, a former postman, was given a life sentence, and Giancarlo Lotti, 58, who had co-operated with the police, was sentenced to 30 years.

Rebuff for Annan

Jerusalem: During a ceremonial Knesset visit to end a gruelling six-nation tour, Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, looked on bewildered as Dan Tichon, the Speaker, dismissed his organisation as too "hostile and biased" for a role in Middle East peacemaking.

Spanish name game

Madrid: Spain is expected to adopt legislation enabling children to use the family name of either their mother or father as their main surname. A Spaniard's surname is traditionally composed of the father's family name followed by that of the mother. *(AFP)*

Spencer visits victims

Phnom Penh: Earl Spencer, who is fulfilling a commitment made to his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales, by making a three-day visit to Cambodia, spoke to landmine victims with artificial limbs fitted at a centre run by the British-based Cambodia Trust.

Extortionist guilty



Seattle: Adam Quinn Pletcher, 22, demanded money from Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, right, "as material for a novel". He was found guilty of extortion, and faces 20 years' jail. *(AP)*

Coke joke falls flat

Evans, Georgia: A high-school student was suspended for wearing a Pepsi shirt on Coke Day, an event organised by teachers to win a $500 (£300) contest run by Coca-Cola. Mike Cameroon, 19, said he did it for a joke. *(AP)*

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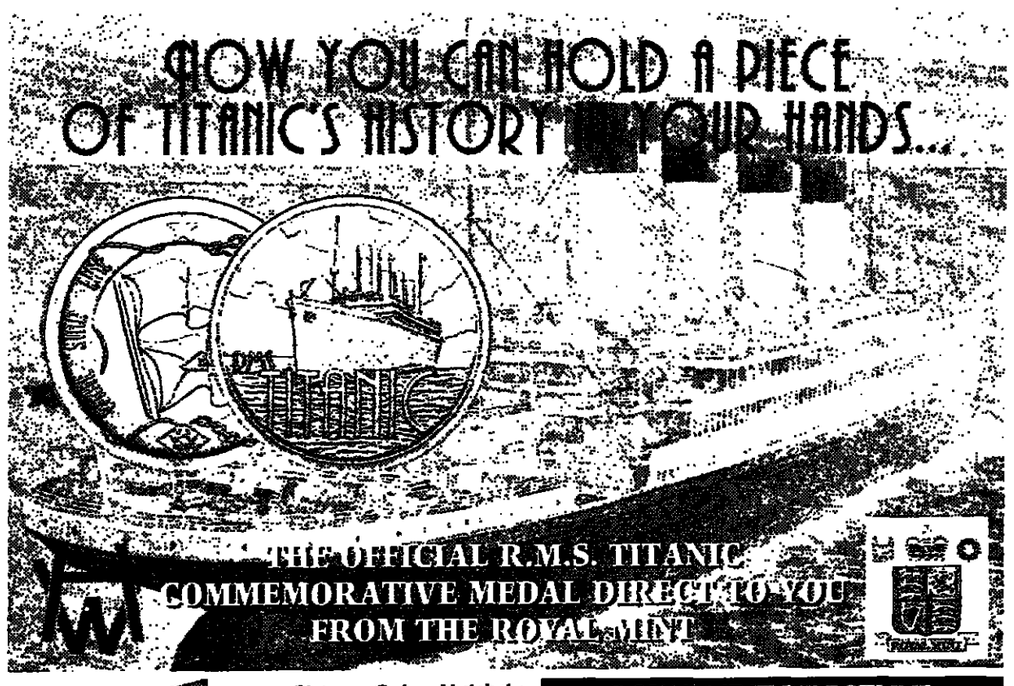
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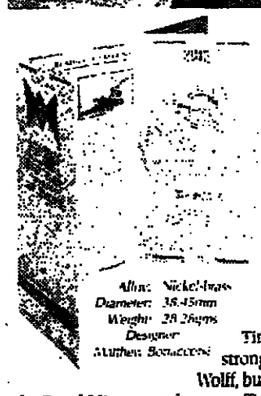
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Albanian gangs lend firepower to Kosovo rebels

FROM TOM WALKER IN ZUB, KOSOVO-ALBANIA BORDER

SERBIAN police said yesterday western Kosovo was being infiltrated by gangsters from Albania, who were lending their firepower to the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Ministry of Interior sources said that in the latest police attack, on the village of Glogjani, 15 miles from the border, special units had come under fire from a "terrorist" cell of 30 gangsters, many of them from Albania — including the one man definitely killed by police, whom they referred to as the "sultan".

They also claimed that a man arrested during the attack, Rasim Selmani, was the local leader of "the separatist movement of Kosovo and Metohija", Belgrade-speak for both the Democratic League of Kosovo and the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The Interior Ministry account, carried by the government daily *Politika*, also seemed to fit with the views of inhabitants of Kosovo's borderland with Albania, a region stalked by round-the-clock terror.

The village of Zub, halfway between Glogjani and the frontier, typified the scattered communities clutching the lower slopes of the mountains of doom that dominate the Kosovo landscape and define its perimeter with both Montenegro and Albania.

The few Albanians in the open hurried towards their walled compounds, talking briefly of how they hoped the Contact Group — whose deliberations they follow on satellite television — will somehow make their lives better. "We have masked men running around here at night," said a nervous factory worker. "And then in the day we have the police. At night we lose our cattle, and during the day the police take our guns. I don't like the Serbs, but I don't want to live with that lot over the border either."

Like most Kosovans, he displayed almost as much contempt for his neighbours on the other side of the mountain as for the Slavs, choking at the suggestion than anyone in their right mind would contemplate fleeing Kosovo for Albania.

After three weeks of violence and inter-ethnic tensions, Kosovo seemed to be catching its breath yesterday. At the Kijovo checkpoint, which was attacked in daylight by an Albanian gunman on Wednesday, a policeman crossed himself as he said there had been no more trouble.

A minor media invasion was disappointed to find a distinct lack of action — a sure indication that the attack on Glogjani had been exaggerated by the Albanian media in its efforts to influence the Contact Group. One local journalist admitted privately that the police could be right: that gangs from over the border in Albania are confusing the already dense riddle of who holds power in western Kosovo.

☐ **Bonn:** Britain, America and four other European powers ended a day of diplomatic wrangling over Kosovo with a harsh sounding but soft-edged ultimatum to Yugoslavia (Roger Boyes writes). Unable to agree to a satisfactory balance of carrot and stick towards President Milosevic, the six-member Contact Group gave Belgrade four weeks to ease the tension in Kosovo. If his efforts do not satisfy the group, Yugoslav assets will be frozen worldwide.

Skinheads cheer on their ex-boxer hero

BY JAMES PETTIFER



Seselj: champion of a 'greater Serbia'

IN THE dark regions of the Serbian extreme Right, Vojislav Seselj, a former boxer, comes from the lowest and most Stygian depths. To liberal Serbs, the leader of the Serbian Radical Party is an open fascist.

His appointment as a Deputy Prime Minister in the new Government of Serbia this week makes the West's worst nightmares come true.

The heart of his appeal is the mass rally. These are heaving, dramatic and superbly organised, patrolled by scowling, heavily armed skinheads. Tub-thumping nationalist bands warm up the crowd for his march to the rostrum. The nobodies of Zemun, his working-class Belgrade power base, feel somebodies as they bawl "Seselj, Seselj" rhythmically, half-football crowd, half-wild Slav tribe. He glowers back, sweating, as if he has seen off a boxing opponent.

He abuses the corrupt rich in the circle of President Milosevic and bellows against Richard Holbrooke, the American architect of the Dayton accords. But under the thuggish exterior, there is an acute brain knowing how to play on the genuine grievances of the dirt-poor refugees from US-backed Croat "ethnic cleansing" in Krajina in 1995.

To nationalists he is honourable, after being jailed under Tito for anti-communism. He calls for an ethnically pure Serbia, but his efforts to achieve it have been failures.

RAFIQUR RAHMAN / REUTERS



A procession of cycle rickshaws crowds a Dhaka street. Government controls have failed to limit their numbers and the majority have fake licences anyway

Cycle-rickshaw boom puts brake on Dhaka's busy street traffic

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

THE teeming streets of Dhaka are being brought to a standstill by a boom in the number of cycle rickshaws, which offer the only means of travel through the business district which is marginally faster than walking.

Seventy per cent of vehicles in the Bangladeshi capital are tricycle rickshaws, with their motorised cousins — "baby taxis" in local parlance — claiming another 15 per cent. Cars inch through this mêlée, their paintwork at the mercy of rickshaw wallahs whose aim is erratic. Buses and lorries move hardly at all.

The Government is trying to impose controls, but nothing in Bangladesh works quite as it should. About 90,000 cycle rickshaws possess licences, which are fitted to the backs of the vehicles like numberplates; the other 300,000 or so use fake plates. Rickshaw pullers earn no more than £2 a day, but it is enough to attract the rural poor into town. By their mid-thirties, most are too worn out to work. The one blessing is that Dhaka is as flat as a table.

> "Cars are at the mercy of rickshaw wallahs whose aim is erratic"

Rickshaws provide jobs directly and indirectly to about 1.5 million people in the capital, whose population is probably about 8.5 million — nobody knows any more. The side-streets are full of cycle mechanics' shops, providing work to an army of young people.

Rickshaw artists, working in fetid slum workshops or from their own huts part-time, decorate the vehicles with paintings of gods, sporting heroes and film stars.

Dhaka docks produce the ultimate rickshaw madness. Rickshaw wallahs work round the clock delivering small loads to shops and factories, which partly explains the agonisingly slow turnaround time for cargo vessels. It is pitiful work, but pays better than pulling passengers because there is hardly any waiting time.

Many children go to and from school by rickshaw, clambering into the vehicle until it overflows and forcing the puller to push rather than pedal. It seems hardly worth it: walking would be quicker, but parents think it safer to bundle their children together.

Rickshaws arrived in Dhaka 60 years ago from Calcutta, and both cities have since tried to get rid of them as symbols of backwardness and poverty. Calcutta retreated from an attempted clampdown in the face of a pullers' protest. Dhaka declared in 1986 that it would issue no more licences, in the hope of gradually forcing the vehicles off the road, but it never happened.

The two-stroke motorised rickshaw was introduced around that time — a disastrous mistake because they immediately covered the city in a cloud of smoke which has never left. Two years ago the Government imposed limits on the number of baby taxis in the hope of curbing pollution, but the air remains foul.

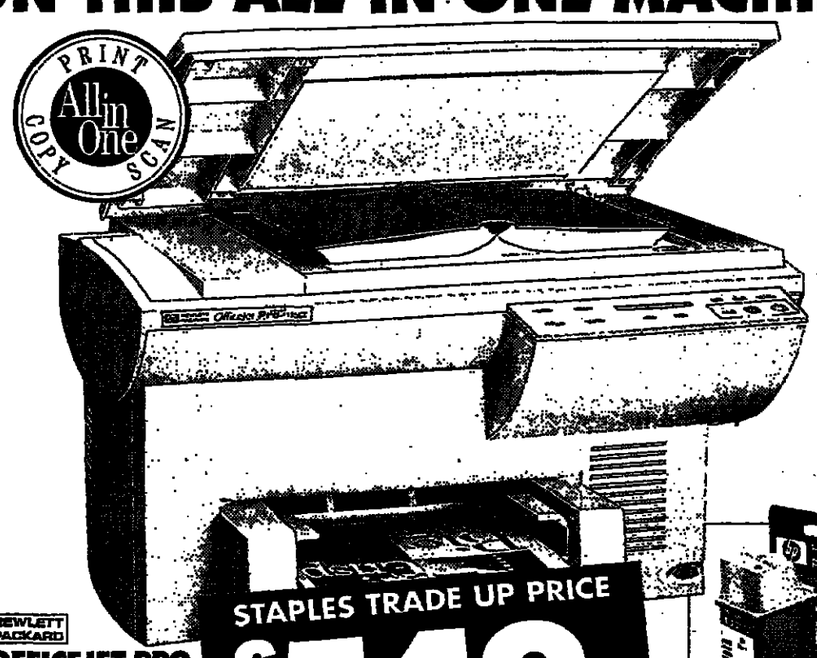
Opposition parties allege that the ruling Awami League is involved in supplying fake cycle rickshaw licences for a comparatively hefty £4. Such practices are condemned by the city's first elected mayor, but there has been no concerted effort to stop it. Police are generally happy to extort a few takas and send a suspect on his way.

Bicycles are rarely used by the better-off, but rickshaws are relatively classless — a notch above taking buses, which are cheaper but horribly crowded, and half the price of baby taxis.

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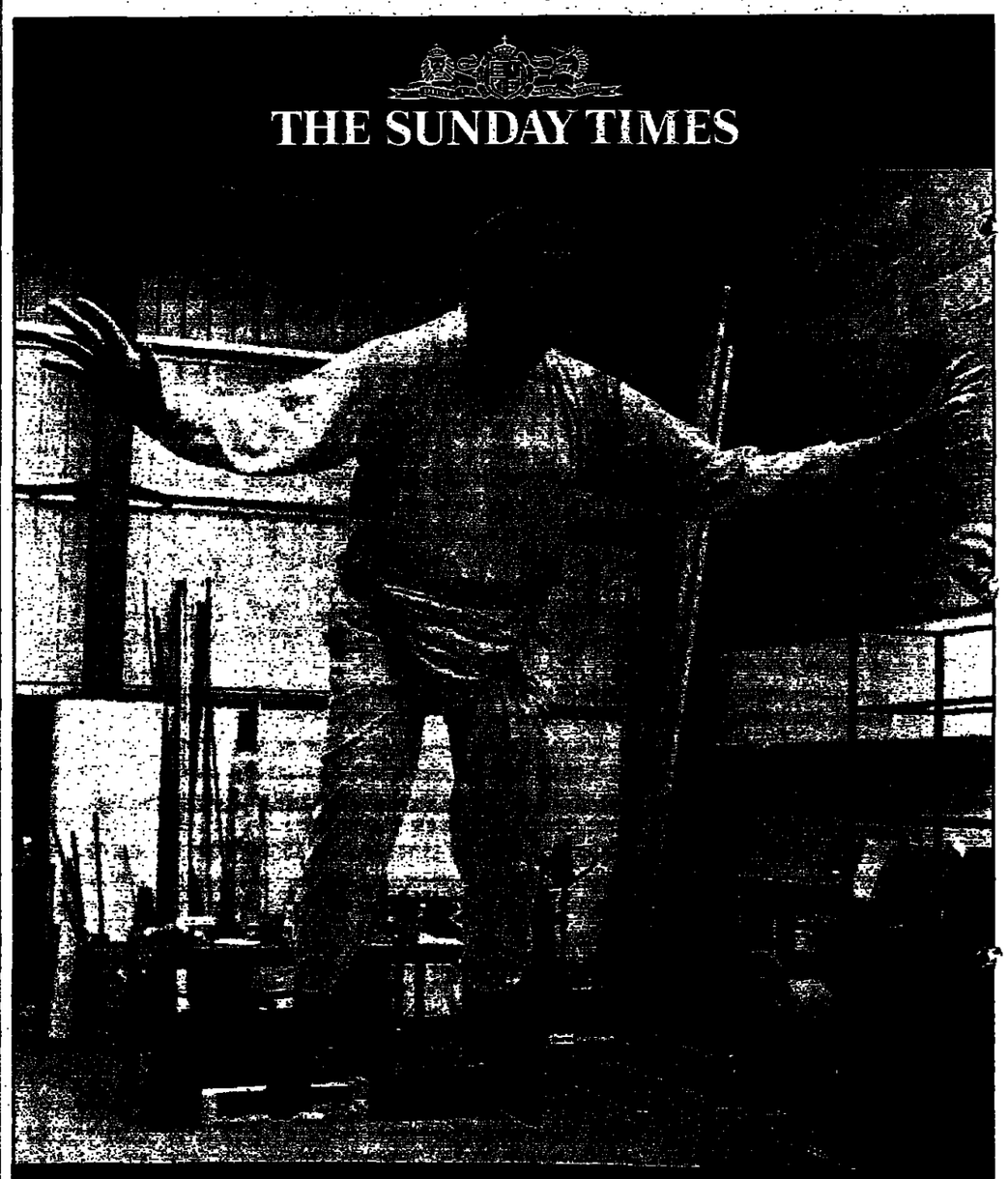
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Town scarred by schoolboys' day of blood

One bragged: 'You will find out if you live or you die'

FROM TOM RHODES IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

THEY hosed down the blood-spattered paving stones outside the empty school at Jonesboro yesterday. It was a desperate but futile attempt to expunge the carnage of the previous day.

Much more than clean pavements will be needed for this Arkansas country town to erase the memory of its heroic teacher and four pretty young girls ambushed and mown down by two nonchalant classmates in a hail of gunfire.

The boys — Mitchell Johnson, 13, who bragged to schoolmates that he had "a lot of killing to do", and his cousin, Andrew Golden, 11 — were to appear before a magistrate last night on charges of capital murder and aggravated assault.

There was a sense that, for Jonesboro, nothing would ever be the same again.

Westside Middle School, said to be the best in Craighead County, was closed for a day of mourning; its pupils too frightened to venture through the gore, yellow police tape and into the building pockmarked by bullet holes. It took four minutes at noon on Tuesday for the sheriff's department to respond to reports of crackling gunfire at the school. They were too late — 27 shots too late.

The youngsters, dressed in camouflage, had apparently leapt from nearby wooded undergrowth and fired almost casually into the gaggle of students lured from their classroom into the vulnerable outdoors by a false fire alarm, thought to have been set off by Golden. The school security doors locked automatically behind them and the group was trapped as the firing started. Many thought it was firecrackers until they saw classmates and teachers fall.

Paige Ann Herring and Stephanie Johnson, both 12, and Brittany Varner and Natalie Brooks, 11, died either at the scene or en route to hospital. Shannon Wright, 32, a teacher who stepped into the line of fire to save one of her students was shot in the pelvis and abdomen. She died later.

"The guy was aiming at Emma and Mrs Wright moved in front of her. She got shot and I sat and watched," said Amber Vanoven, 11. The mother of a two-year-old son, Mrs Wright was described as a kind and loving heroine by others at the school. "She would do that without a doubt," said Lula Belle Jones, the cafeteria manager. Last night six people remained in hospital, including Sara Thetford, another teacher, who was fighting for her life.

Mitchell, described as a troubled boy who had talked recently of his involvement in a gang, had been upset over breaking up with his latest girlfriend. The girl, Kim Candace Porter, was wounded in the shooting.

"He told us that tomorrow 'you will find out if you live or die'," said Melinda Henson, a friend. But nobody believed the threats to shoot all those who had broken up with him, or that he would kill the teachers who disciplined him. Karen Curtner, the school principal, said none of the teaching staff knew of the threats.

School starts again today, with counselling for those involved. Nobody in Jonesboro, a buckle in the Bible Belt 130 miles northeast of the city in which President Clinton cut his political teeth, could understand why they were victims.

Hubert Bordell, the tearful mayor, said Mr Clinton had telephoned him from Africa to express his concern.

Sheriff's officers arrested the boys as they ran away through woods. Under Arkansas law, nobody under the age of 14 can be charged as an adult. But authorities are researching ways in which Mitchell could be charged as an adult, or whether both boys might face adult federal charges.

Leading article, page 23



AP

Survivor Tristian McGowan, 13, above, is wheeled away from a medical centre yesterday. The five who died were, from the top, Shannon Wright, a teacher, who tried to protect her pupils, Natalie Brooks, Stephanie Johnson, Brittany Varner and Paige Ann Herring



Cordoned off: the scene where pupils died, trapped between sniper fire and locked security doors

Americans bewildered by their baby-faced killers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS were again confronted with their national nightmare of guns and violence yesterday as they struggled to comprehend the school shooting that left five dead and 11 wounded in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

From President Clinton to the victims' classmates, the country agonised over what had prompted the suspects, aged 11 and 13, to open up with an arsenal of guns, and what, if anything, can be done to prevent similar multiple killings, of which there have been two since last October. There was talk of a cultural disease that must be cured. Mr Clinton, touring Africa, expressed grief at the carnage in his home state and will order Janet Reno, his Attorney-General, to examine the string of tragedies. "In the weeks to come we have to analyse these incidents to see whether or not we can learn anything that can tell us what we can do to prevent further ones," Mr Clinton said.

He wanted to know if there were common elements to the episodes in which youths take other people's lives and destroy their own.

Mike Huckabee, Governor of Arkansas, was in no doubt as to the cause. He blamed a national culture in which films, television, language and music promoted a glorification of violence. "What makes all of us angry is that our culture would create the kind of atmosphere where an 11 or 13-year-old student could feel that the way to respond to whatever anger is in inside them is to take up a whole battery of arms and indiscriminately shoot their fellow students and teachers," he said.

Yet he was not sure much else could be expected in a country where children are exposed to tens of thousands of murders on television and films. "It's a cultural disease that we've got to address," he said.

One place to start might be Arkansas, where minors are allowed to carry shotguns and rifles, though not with criminal intent. The dispensation is part of the hunting tradition, especially in the South. Trying to restrict the availability of guns has proved difficult. The National Rifle Association remains a powerful lobby. The right to bear arms is enshrined, albeit ambiguously, in the Constitution.

In Jonesboro, survivors said the 13-year-old suspect was upset over rejection by a girlfriend. On Monday, he told classmates he would come to school on Tuesday to shoot them. They thought he was kidding.

The US Department of Education, in its first study of school crime, estimates that last year there were 11,000 attacks or fights in which weapons were used in America's 87,000 state-run schools. There were 7,000 robberies and 4,000 rapes or other sexual assaults. Bad though the figures are, they seem to indicate that the incidence of crime in schools has not grown significantly worse over the past 20 years. What has caused so much shock is that the attacks are more savage and the average age of offenders has fallen.

A private group in California, the National School Safety Centre, said deaths from school violence have actually dwindled over the past five years from a record of 55 in 1992 to 19 in the last school year.

Earlier this month Mr Clinton began a school safety initiative, including an attempt to keep guns out of schools. Many schools already have metal detectors, police patrols and fenced grounds. But these precautions tend to be in inner cities and not rural areas like Jonesboro.

Wave of attacks by teenage students

BEFORE the Arkansas massacre there had been two other mass shootings of students at schools in America and one attack by a sniper since October (Ian Brodie writes).

October 1, 1997: A 16-year-old in Pearl, Mississippi, was accused of killing his mother and then going to his school and shooting nine students. Two of them died, including the boy's former girlfriend.

Authorities later accused six friends of conspiracy in the attack, saying that they were part of a group that had been dabbling in Satanism.

December 1, 1997: A 14-year-old boy described as emotionally immature was arrested on charges of opening fire on a student prayer circle in a school hallway in West Paducah, Kentucky. Three students were killed and five wounded.

December 15, 1997: A sniper hiding in woods wounded two students outside a school in Stamps, Arkansas. A boy of 14 was charged.

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Cardinal throws his hat in the papal ring

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope's right-hand man yesterday attempted to emerge from the shadow of the ailing pontiff and raise his profile as a potential successor by declaring that the Roman Catholic Church needed "urgent and continuous reform" under a strong papacy for the new millennium.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, 70, the Vatican Secretary of State, or Prime Minister, astonished Vatican watchers by praising Hans Küng, the Swiss theologian and the fiercest liberal critic of the Pope. Dr Küng is banned from teaching because of his repeated questioning of papal infallibility.

Cardinal Sodano, a former Vatican diplomat in Latin America, is the most senior official in the Vatican after the Pope. This week he, rather than the Pope, who was recovering from a three-day visit to Nigeria in humid heat, received Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State.

The Pope 77, is said to be suffering from Parkinson's disease, and has suffered a series of other health problems. There are reports that he has given Cardinal Sodano an undated letter of resignation to be used in case he becomes "mentally incapacitated".

Cardinal Sodano is normally regarded as a cautious, rather colourless bureaucrat. But in a lecture at the Lateran Palace in Rome he made his listeners sit up by saying that the Church needed "continuous great reform from within — not just small adjustments — and must adapt to contemporary world culture". He quoted approvingly from Dr Küng, who was banned by the Vatican from teaching at Tübingen in 1979 and has never been rehabilitated.

Dr Küng's views are anathema to the Pope, whom the dissident theologian has accused of imposing a "rigid, stagnating and despotic rule in the spirit of the Inquisition". Two years ago Dr Küng called for a new Pope who would "save the barque of St Peter from sinking" by allowing new thinking on women priests, married male priests, divorce and birth control.

Cardinal Sodano said Dr Küng's writings contained "beautiful pages dedicated to the Christian mystery". The theologian had shown "faith in the river of goodness and mercy, of solidarity and willingness to help which springs from the Gospels and runs through 2000 years of Christian history". He hinted that an amnesty for Catholic dissidents might form part of a millennial "re-launch of the Church". The cardinal warned that the Church "must not lose sight of the usefulness of pontifical authority", adding: "The authority of the Pope and the Church hierarchy is not in question ... The Church is an assembly united around the Pope".

But he said the "sins and errors" of the Church's "sons and daughters" could be overcome. The structures of the Church — including the Curia, the Vatican administration — must not become "petrified", but needed to be renewed in the wake of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s.

Cardinal Sodano did not refer to specific doctrinal issues, but said repeatedly that the Church had to "keep pace with the times" and engage in "continual renewal, movement and growth". He used the biblical image of a tree which needs constant watering and pruning "so that its vital life-force reaches the whole plant and produces abundant fruit".

La Repubblica noted that Vatican statements are seldom made "by chance". "Since there is no formal campaigning for the papacy, senior officials use other occasions to throw their hats into the ring and outline their ideas on the future of the Church," the newspaper said.

MARIE HIPPENMEYER / AFP



Brazilian firefighters watch as a helicopter drops water-bombs to douse a raging forest fire near Apiau in Roraima state

Yeltsin's stopgap runs into trouble

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ONLY 48 hours after President Yeltsin named a political novice to take over as Prime Minister, his appointment appeared to run into serious political opposition yesterday that threatened his brief tenure.

Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, was plucked from relative obscurity as Russia's Energy Minister on Monday and appointed acting Prime Minister. Last night in his first foray on the international stage he welcomed the French and German leaders to Moscow, appearing as a small and nervous figure on the tarmac.

By far the most damaging comments came from Gennadi Seleznyov, the Speaker of the Duma, the lower house of parliament. He made it clear that the inexperienced acting Prime Minister, who has held a ministerial post for less than a year, would not survive the cut-throat world of Moscow politics. "He is in a serious situation," Mr Seleznyov said. "He is little known. He has never been a governor. He does not have the economic experience to run Russia's huge economy."

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader and head of the largest faction in parliament, said: "I think that in the current circumstances, a powerful and professional team is needed. One person can hardly do anything — besides [Kiriyenko] lacks experience."

Mr Kiriyenko is, by his own admission, a newcomer with no taste for power politics. He has been given a week to draw up a set of government priorities and a list of ministers. "I feel frightened, very frightened," the short, balding former oil refinery boss from the province of Nizhny-Novgorod told *Izvestia* newspaper.



Léotard: ultimatum to five party rebels

Paris party in tatters over deals

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE conservative Union for French Democracy (UDF), the third largest force in French politics and crucial junior partner in the centre-right coalition, was tearing itself apart yesterday.

Its leaders squabbled over the fate of five rebel party members who won regional presidencies by striking deals with the far-right National Front.

François Léotard, the UDF president, issued an ultimatum to the five renegades, including Charles Millon, the former Defence Minister, giving them a week to resign from their new posts or face expulsion. All five have already been suspended by the UDF executive committee.

On Tuesday, Alain Madelin, head of the Liberal Democracy party, another group under the UDF umbrella, refused to back "disciplinary" sanctions against the five, plunging the party into fresh disarray.

M Madelin, an avid free-marketeer and self-styled Thatcherite, partly changed tack yesterday, saying that the five should resign because "they would not be able to run their regions with efficiency and serenity".

William Rees-Mogg, page 22

Almighty letdown for flying saucer sect

GOD missed an appointment on a Texan television station yesterday, forcing the Taiwanese sect leader who had predicted the Second Coming to admit he was talking nonsense (James Bone writes).

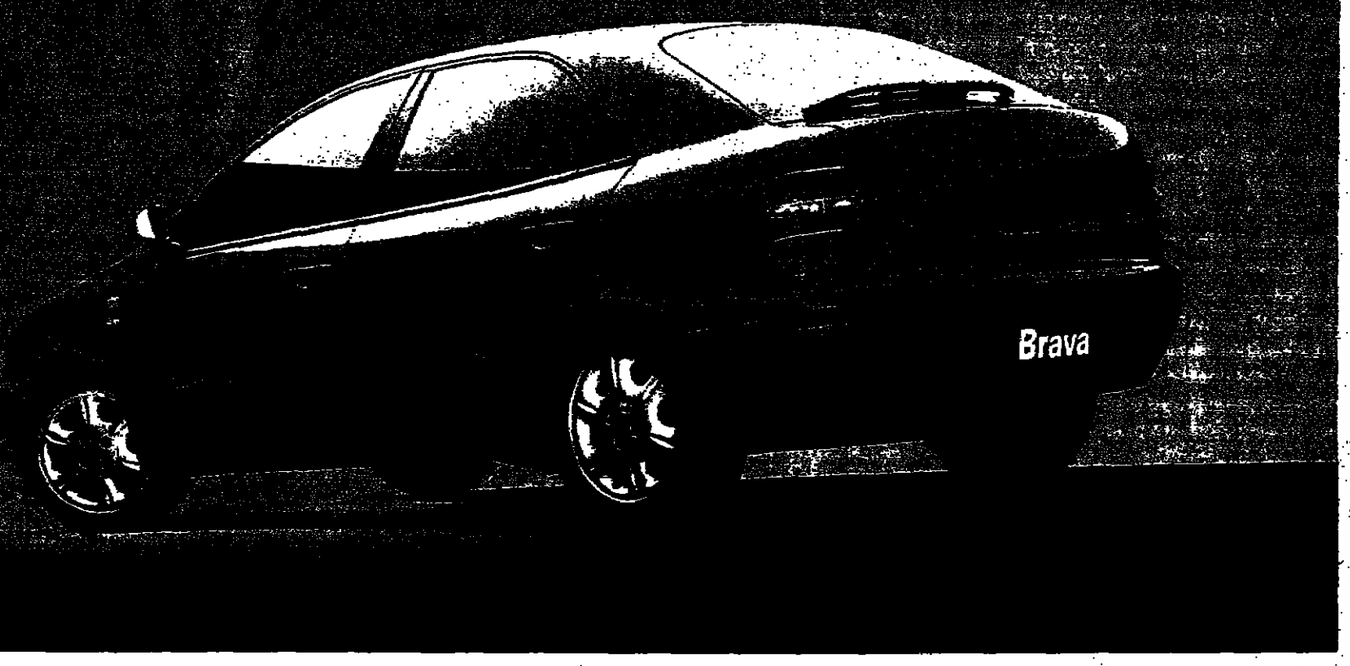
Onlookers and reporters streamed into the working-class Dallas suburb of Garland where the 140 Taiwanese members of the True Way movement awaited the Almighty's appearance on Channel 18 at 12.01am. Church members, who moved to Garland because it sounded like "God's land", wore white garments and cowboy hats as they filed into the home of their leader, a former social science professor named Chen Heng-ming who says he fathered Christ nearly 2,000 years ago. Mr Chen, 42, had declared that God would presage His return to Earth and the birth of a new era with the TV appearance. When He failed to do so, the disappointed leader urged people to keep watching.

Mr Chen had planned to lead followers to heaven next year on flying saucers that would touch down on the shores of Lake Michigan. But True Way members — their movement is also called the God Saves the Earth Flying Saucer Association — insist they have no suicide plan.

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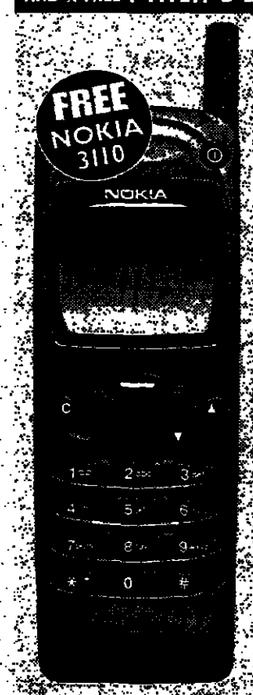
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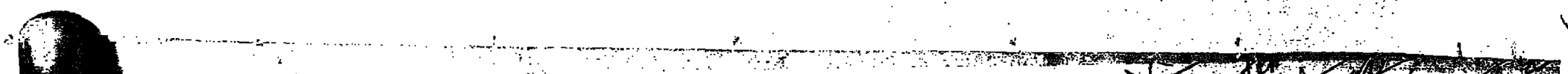
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Clinton says world failed in Rwandan genocide

FROM DAVID ORR IN KAMPALA

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday made the most moving speech yet in his tour of Africa when he visited Rwanda. Having met survivors of the 1994 genocide, which claimed the lives of at least half a million people, President Clinton acknowledged that the world did not respond quickly enough when evidence of the massacres began to emerge.

"The international community, together with nations in Africa, must bear its share of responsibility for this tragedy," Mr Clinton told the crowd at the airport near the capital, Kigali. "We did not act quickly enough after the killing began . . . We did not immediately call these crimes by their rightful name — genocide."

He had listened intently in apparent horror as Josephine Murebwayire, scarred from machete cuts, told how she had lost nine members of her family in the massacre. "They took us outside and gave us machete cuts until almost everyone was dead," she said. ". . . I had machete cuts on my head, my teeth were taken out and my legs were also cut. My six children, my husband and two brothers were all killed there."

Venuste Karasira, whose right hand was cut off, told Mr Clinton he survived by hiding among the dead. "I swam in their blood to survive," he said. "The cries of the people in agony were everywhere. They took us to a hill. Some were killed along the way. We accepted our fate to die. The next morning, among the crying of the living, among the blood, they brought us to the hospital and we survived."

President Clinton said: "It may seem strange to you here, especially the many of you who lost members of your family, but all over the world there were people like me sitting in offices, day after day after day, who did not fully appreciate the depth and speed with which you were being engulfed by his unimaginable terror." The President said the United States was contributing $2 million (£1.2 million) to a fund for genocide survivors and $30 million to create effective, impartial judicial systems in the Great Lakes region of Central Africa.

"Nothing is more vital than establishing the rule of law," said Mr Clinton. "There can be no peace in Rwanda that lasts without a justice system that is recognised as such."

President Clinton's speech was warmly applauded, though some attending the ceremony wondered why he stayed only three hours in Rwanda, while spending several days in some of the countries on his six-nation tour. He did not visit a monument put up near the airport in preparation for his visit. The sculpture of ceramic and concrete, which contains bones, skulls and farming tools of genocide victims, was felt by some to be overly macabre.

> "The cries of people in agony were everywhere. We accepted our fate to die"

Mr Clinton said his Administration would try to improve systems for identifying nations in danger of genocidal violence. Later, he met seven African leaders at the Summit for Peace and Prosperity in Entebbe, Uganda, where they all signed a commitment to deepening respect for human rights as the "birthright of all men and women".

"The leaders who have come to Entebbe today share a common vision of a bright future for this region," Mr Clinton said. "We seek to deepen the progress that has been made and to meet the tough challenges that remain." Two of the leaders, President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo and President Moi of Kenya, have been criticised by the Clinton Administration for human rights abuses. Mr Clinton said the leaders agreed to work to banish genocide from the continent and to bring murderers to justice. He pressed for the establishment of an African peacekeeping force. "Every child has the right to grow up in peace," he said.

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RICK T WILKING / REUTERS



President Bizimungu of Rwanda and President Clinton watch traditional dancers at an airport near Kigali, the Rwandan capital, yesterday before meeting survivors of the 1994 genocide

Africa's wise men wary as West hails a doubtful dawn

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

The much vaunted "African rebirth", heralded by the White House, Pretoria and much of the Western media, which have been caught up in an unusually positive mood during Bill Clinton's African safari, is a little premature. A reborn Africa remains a glint in the eyes of its parents who have barely advanced beyond some cautious foreplay; premature announcements are likely to lead to a stillbirth.

At first glance, an optimistic outlook for Africa comes as a relief from the diet of news about massacres, dictatorships, genocide, war, poverty and incompetence. But the West cannot wish these realities away just because of a short course in positive thinking from the leader of the free world. For every country that looks like it is going in the right direction, there is another hurtling into crisis. And those with the most unpredictable futures — Kenya, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo — hold the key to economic development of the continent.

The excitement over a "new dawn" on the Dark Continent has been generated by Washington's discovery of President Museveni of Uganda and his club of allies who run Rwanda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Tanzania.

Yesterday Mr Museveni's pivotal role as an informal "chairman" of Africa's new wave of leaders was demonstrated when he hosted a summit for Mr Clinton at which the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya, and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia were present. President Moi of Kenya, the most senior leader, was forced to appear as a guest of Mr Museveni.

Mr Clinton has pledged an extra $120 million (£72 million) in aid for Uganda and $30 million to support judicial systems in Rwanda and the former Zaire. But the enthusiasm among the Clinton entourage should not be taken much further lest it collapse into faddism. Mr Museveni said as much before the Clinton bandwagon rolled into town, when he called on donor nations to stop pumping aid into hopeless Third World economies but to assist African economies to prosper through trade. The White House has backed this call with a preferential trade Bill which will go some way to allowing African economies to export primary products in which the continent has a trade advantage over Europe and America.

In the wake of Mr Clinton's Africa tour, there will be a desire in the West to try to boost the efforts of African leaders who have shown an unusual urge to put their people before themselves.

But so far Western solutions have been a fiasco. Over the past 40 years enthusiasm for "emancipation from colonial oppression", "African socialism", "one-party statism" and other such ideologies haveensured that Africa remained mired in long-term poverty.

For example, take Julius Nyerere's Tanzania, where with the backing of British and Scandinavian intellectuals he introduced *Ujamaa* — a version of African socialism which took as its departure point the fiction that pre-colonial Africans lived in Arcadia. As a result two million people were forced into agrarian collectives and Tanzania became the world's third poorest country; the only one of the bottom ten which had sunk this low without being beset by civil war.

The new generation of leaders, such as President Museveni and his close friend Paul Kagame, the Rwandan Vice-President, agree with this view. None was educated in the West, aside from some covert military training, and they are likely to insist on going it alone in finding African solutions to African problems. Western well-wishers can do little more than sit back, watch and hope.

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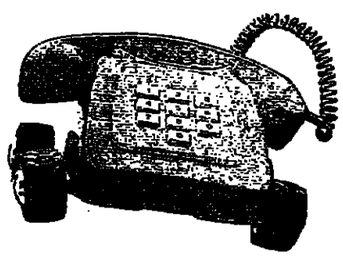
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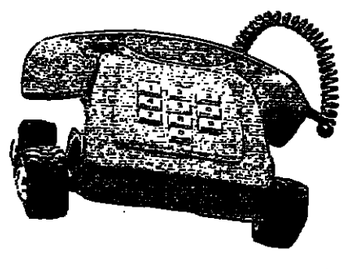
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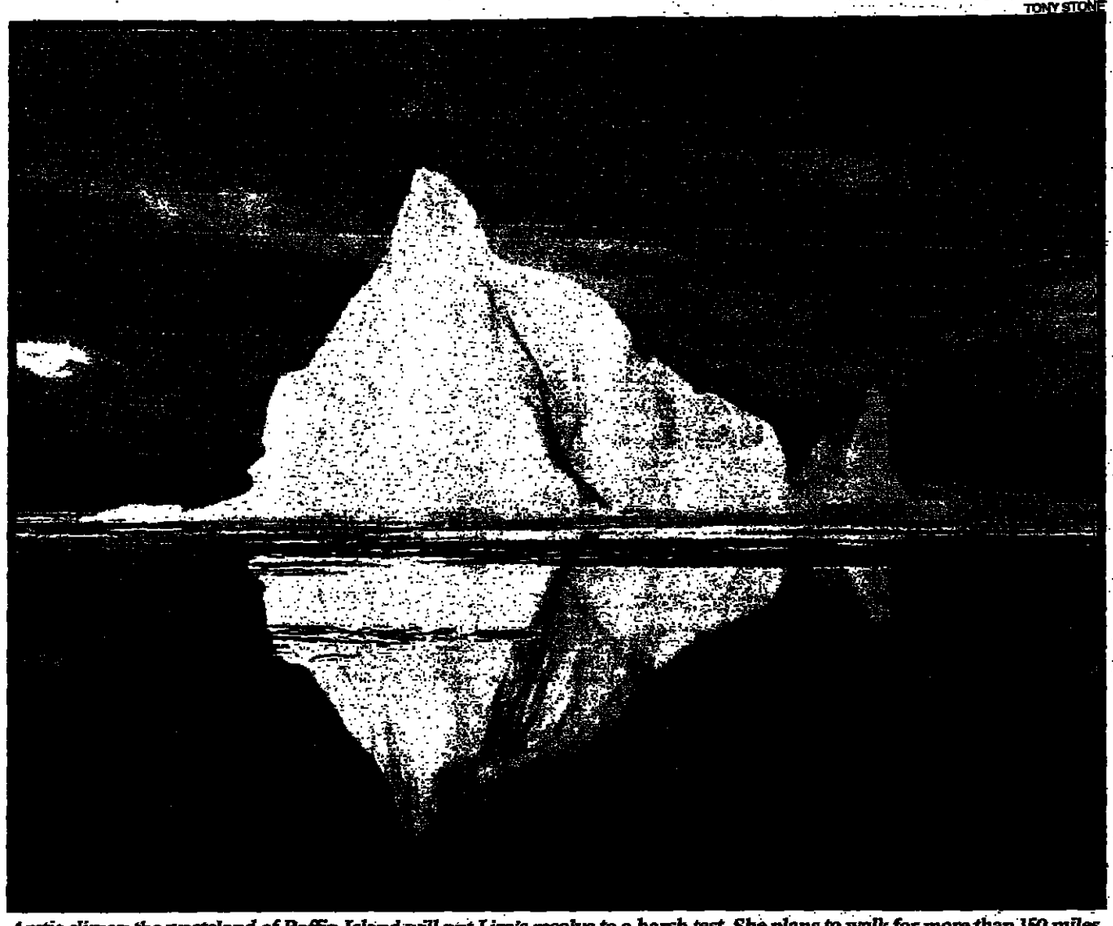
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هكذا من الأصل



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on an inspirational Arctic trek that offers hope to depressives; prostate problems; first-aid treatment for a nosebleed and how some tea can stain the skin

Icy walk to inspire the low in spirit



TONY STONE

Arctic climes: the wasteland of Baffin Island will put Liza's resolve to a harsh test. She plans to walk for more than 150 miles

Liza Helps, a 32-year-old executive with the property company Savills, competed for a place in the British women's polar relay team in 1996. She plans to return to snowy climes to spend three weeks in temperatures ranging from minus 20C to the comparative luxury of 5C.

Liza is to walk more than 150 miles across Baffin Island, which is 1,500 miles north of Montreal in the Arctic Circle. Apart from gaining personal satisfaction from her walk, she hopes to raise several thousand pounds for a medical charity, Remedi.

She is well aware of the advantages of modern medicine. Looking back on her life, she thinks that she has been intermittently depressed since schooldays.

There was nothing inherently wrong with her school. In retrospect it seems to have been a good one — but Liza was very small, skinny, different, a know-all, and bullied. Different because she had been brought up in Canada and had not learnt the social niceties that determined when British schoolfriends wanted your opinion and when it was better and safer to keep quiet.

It would seem ingenuous to attribute her later severe depression to a frosty reception by her English schoolmates, and some genetic susceptibility must have played a part. However, whatever the complex causes, she was seriously depressed by the time she was 24.

Liza's symptoms were typical. She felt that life was hopeless and offered no future for her, she was devoid of ambition and derived no pleasure from anything she undertook, although she continued to work. She was a perfectionist who had been brought up to feel that achieving objectives was what really mattered, and that at all times she not only had to do her duty, but had to be better than others.

> 'As a child she was skinny, a know-all and bullied'

She felt thwarted by her temperament, which prevented her from accomplishing the goals she had set herself. The result was misery and panic attacks by day, and sleep-disturbed nights in which she found herself waking up crying.

Help came on two fronts. Her mood was lifted miraculously by Prozac, so that she was once again able to view life rationally and to enjoy the pleasures and challenges it offers. Prozac, she says, was "terrific". It eliminated her depression but she did not think it provided the whole answer.

Like many depressed patients, Liza found that cognitive therapy helped her to overcome the negative way she had grown accustomed to thinking about herself. She describes it as "massively helpful" in removing the triggers of her depressive phases.

Depressed patients who have low self-esteem but high standards — and who therefore often think they are dismal failures — might, for instance, say to themselves "I can never do anything right or do it well". Cognitive therapy teaches them to assess their achievements more dispassionately and to realise that they are often right, often do things well, and are valuable and constructive members of whatever community they live in.

Liza's decision to undertake her walk demonstrates how well she has recovered from depression. The money raised will help those whom Remedi helps with research grants — but above all, her walk should prove an inspiration to those who are depressed and show them that modern medicine can help them to rediscover the joy in life.

● *Offers of sponsorship to Remedi, Stanton Prior, Bath BA2 9HT. Telephone and fax 01761 472662.*

Blooding of a first-aider

COLIN CLARK was entertaining his neighbours mightily at a recent *Oldie* lunch when his nose started to bleed. Disaster, because Colin, the younger brother of Alan, was due to talk about his book, *Younger Brother, Younger Son*. Would he continue, handkerchief in hand, with blood dripping down his shirt and on to the white tablecloth at Simpson's, or should he smile bravely and sit down?

Fortunately, my wife, who was sitting next to him, remembered her first aid and told him to lean forward slightly and to grip the junction of the hard and soft part of the nose firmly between the finger and thumb. Within five minutes his nose had stopped bleeding and he was able to make a speech every bit as witty as his book.

A recent report in the *British Postgraduate Medical Journal* and the *BMJ* discussed the best first-aid treatment for nose bleeds. They reviewed such bizarre remedies as biting on a cork and inserting smoked bacon into the nose but found them all wanting. The only method that these eminent ear nose and throat surgeons from Leeds, who compiled the research, can recommend is the one used by Colin Clark.

● Younger Brother, Younger Son *is published by HarperCollins, £19.99.*

It pays to go easy on the Earl Grey

PREGNANT women have always been aware of the broad band of pigmented skin that shows across the forehead and, to a lesser extent, on the sides of the nose, the cheeks and elsewhere on the face. This is known as the chloasma uterinum and is part of the general pigmentation that affects any area of skin where there is pressure. It can also be seen on a pregnant woman's nipples and lower abdomen, where a thin dark line descends from the umbilicus. Lesser degrees of pigmentation follow after taking some forms of the Pill.

Pulse magazine has recently shown a photograph by Dr Andy Gordon of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, of similar changes on a male forehead. Two causes for this pigmentation are the anti-epileptic drug phenytoin and, when taken by the pint, Earl Grey tea, which contains bergamot. Dr Gordon's patient was taking neither and his pigmentation remains unexplained.

Bergamot oil is expressed from the skin of the freshly peeled fruit of the citrus bergamia, which resembles a small orange. It contributes to the very distinctive flavour of Earl Grey tea and is thought by herbalists to have antidepressant powers. Herbalists also claim that it is useful in treating inflammations of the urinary tract, although some of us may feel that these require antibiotics.



MAGNUM

Hot tip: Bergamot is said to give tea restorative powers

Aromatherapists massage bergamot into the skin to relieve tension, relax the muscles and lift the spirits and, according to them, it also eases digestion.

I have a patient who applied it to her face to improve its texture, and to relieve her tension headaches. Doubtless it did so but it also left a well-tanned patch of skin on her temple. Bergamot oil is now incorporated into many suntan oils to ease inflamed skin and enhance the tan.

Its presence in Earl Grey tea, given its antidepressant powers, adds a whole new dimension to the expression that tea is the cup that cheers but doesn't inebriate.



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Problems of the prostate

HARRY'S broad-brimmed hat covering his flowing hair, and his long coat have been his trademark for 20 years. If Harry's cronies in the media-friendly clubs of Soho, have noticed that he's been looking a bit edgy recently, it is because he is keeping one eye on the gents.

Harry is suffering the symptom known as urgency, he has even had one episode of urge incontinence, the technical term better known as being caught short. He also has frequency and has barely downed his first drink before he is rushing to the lavatory; his nocturnal wanderings are as disruptive to his wife's sleep as they are to his. Harry shows all the four symptoms considered evidence of bladder irritation, one of the two groups of troubles that affect patients with benign prostatic hypertrophy. The benign enlargement of the prostate is as much a part of the male ageing process as baldness and a thickening girth.

> Surgery improves the lives of 88 per cent of patients

Symptoms of bladder irritation, which result from the bladder being incompletely emptied, are not Harry's only problems. The obstruction to the bladder outlet caused by the enlarging prostate doesn't even allow him to urinate without trouble. He may have difficulty in starting, and once started the stream initially may be weak, and later slow, intermittent and splayed. When he has emptied his bladder as well as he can, it may still be a quarter full.

The second batch of symptoms, the weak stream, the hesitancy, feelings of incomplete emptiness, are described as obstructive symptoms. Various interventionist procedures have been tried but transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) has been the standard operation for 50 years. The surgeon inserts a resectoscope with a diathermy loop through the penis and removes slithers of the obstructing prostatic tissue. Eighty-eight per cent have an excellent result after surgery but about 1 per cent become incontinent, 16 per cent impotent and 68 per cent thereafter have retrograde ejaculation (inwards into the bladder), 1.5 per cent die within the first three months. This figure isn't so remarkable when it is remembered that many of these patients are very elderly; in the best units the mortality figure is only 0.3 per cent.

The decision to have surgery becomes inevitable as the bladder is so inflamed that it frequently bleeds or becomes recurrently infected. Likewise if the patient finds emptying the bladder so difficult that it remains permanently full and only periodically slops over, urgent surgery is called for. An operation is also recommended if there is evidence of damage to the bladder wall, or to the tubes leading to the kidneys.

It is possible to treat enlarged prostates with drugs. In some cases these perform a holding operation, but in others they may relieve symptoms to such an extent that the patient is able to cope for months or even years. The drugs belong to two basic types, the first group relaxes the prostate muscle. Once the muscle relaxes, which happens within 36 hours, the flow rate may be improved by 30 per cent. Occasionally, there are side effects, including dizziness, headaches and drowsiness. The other means of treatment is by using Proscar finasteride. This reduces prostatic size by 30 per cent but the maximum advantage is not obtained for nine months. In a few patients libido is reduced.

The greatest disservice that could be done to a patient is to miss cancer of the prostate. Careful estimates of PSA (prostate specific antigen), that help to distinguish between benign and malignant prostatic disease, are essential. Three cardinal questions reveal prostatic disease: do you get up at night to pass urine? Is your urine flow slow? Are you bothered by your bladder function? Although these reveal benign disease, they may fail to expose prostatic malignancy at a time when it may be operated on.

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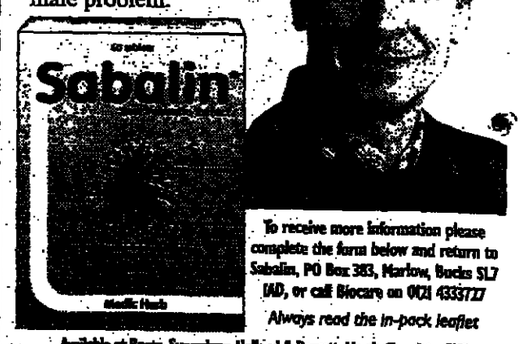
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Hoffman versus Hoffman

Dustin Hoffman's adopted daughter faces jail for embezzlement. She did not ask him for help. Why? Grace Bradberry reports

It seems an improbable tale. The adopted daughter of Dustin Hoffman, one of Hollywood's highest-earning stars, has been convicted of embezzling the poignantly precise sum of £5,358.41 from her employers.

It is one of those archetypal stories of the Millionaire's Daughter Found in Soup Kitchen variety, illustrating as it does that no parent, no matter how wealthy or powerful, can ensure their children's lives turn out as they would like.

Not only can money not buy love, it seems it cannot buy respectability either. In fact, it often seems to buy the reverse. The more glamorous and successful the parent, the shabbier the path chosen — or fallen *upon* — by their offspring.

Of course, there are plenty of cases of celebrity children caught in some minor indiscretion which is then blown out of all proportion through media attention. There are also cases of deliberate attention-seeking.

Karina Hoffman-Birkhead's offence fell into neither of these categories. It appears to have been one of those shameful acts that are only half thought-through (it was easy to detect) and scarcely faced up to.

The bare bones are that Hoffman-Birkhead, 32, was working for two friends, Marcella and Russell Porcas, setting up a business customising motor homes for film locations. It was a fresh start after her five-year marriage to a Yorkshire-born chef and artist, Simon Birkhead, ended in divorce a year ago. To add to her troubles, Birkhead was fighting for custody of their daughter Bryce, 5.

When Russell Porcas, a friend of eight years, offered her a £25,000-a-year job, not surprisingly she accepted. For a while she lived with Mr and Mrs Porcas, who no doubt felt doubly betrayed when Hoffman-Birkhead stole eight cheques from them, cashing seven. When Marcella Porcas confronted her friend, Hoffman-Birkhead apparently told her she couldn't ask her father for any more money.

Mr and Mrs Porcas have not been slow to tell the press about their sense of betrayal. But let's face it, what is really interesting is why Hoffman's daughter didn't feel she could ask her father for more money. The relationship between the two appears to have been as knotty as they come — and with some reason.

> 'We all want to be a little immortal. That's why we have children'

Karina was the product of her mother Anne Bryne's brief marriage to a German diplomat. She was three when Anne, a ballet dancer, married Dustin Hoffman in 1969. Hoffman adopted her, then went on to have a daughter of his own, named Jenna. Friends report that Karina always felt insecure, believing that Hoffman was more interested in his blood daughter — perhaps a natural assumption but not necessarily a correct one.

In 1980, while Hoffman was filming *Kramer versus Kramer*, a child custody tear-jerker, he and his wife separated. Karina and her sister were taken to see *Kramer*. "My two daughters have seen the film," Hoffman told a journalist at the time. "They were really upset by it but they liked it. And I'm not so sure you should keep kids away from the truth, even if it is upsetting."

In another interview, it was his relationship with Karina, not Jenna, that he described. From an early stage it would seem to have been filled with tensions, although Hoffman has spent his share of time on the therapist's couch and is clearly one to analyse.

He had taught his daughter to swim, he said, and she had clung to him in the water. Then one day she ordered him to let go. "I said, 'You can't swim.' And she said, 'Yes I can. Let me go.' And I let her go. And she swam."

"I think the worst feeling in the world is if someone holds you down at the moment you want to fly," he added.

But Hoffman was also given to statements which an insecure adolescent might well find fickle. Having openly said that he would like a son, Hoffman proceeded to "bond" with his on-screen son in *Kramer versus Kramer*. "He felt like a real son. I can't think of any other actor I've continued a relationship with after a film was over, but I do with him. He's a wonderful boy."

Hoffman's second marriage, to Lisa Gottsegen, has produced two boys and two girls, although it seems to have been more Karina's adoptive status and the rivalry with Jenna that troubled her. Former friends have suggested that she argued with her father throughout her teenage years — nothing unusual, perhaps, but a situation exacerbated by her belief that he made a distinction between his adopted and his blood daughter.

Whatever the "truth" of the relationship, Hoffman seems to have endeavoured to do better the second time around. "I'm frightened of how short the time is," he said of his young children, soon after the birth of his granddaughter. "They are emotionally separating themselves from you all the time.

"You wake up and suddenly find they're not like they were yesterday. I want to be part of their daily life this time because I was less so with my first two girls.

"I was away more during my first marriage. My first wife was a dancer and our work would separate us for months. It was not easy to have a home life."

But beneath the reappraisals and wholly normal feelings of parental guilt, isn't there a more fundamental problem, which stems from being an adopted child in a family where everyone else is a blood relative?

As Hoffman himself once said, discussing his desire for ever greater success: "We all want to be a little bit immortal. We all want to leave something behind: that's why we have children."

Andrew Evans, a counselling psychologist who works with celebrities, suggests that Hoffman's fame might have compounded a fairly inevitable identity crisis. "There's a difference between having a new stepfather and having another man adopt you. With a stepfather the relationship is clear, however difficult it might be. But if you're adopted, you are halfway between having a stepfather and having a real father.

"The confusing thing for this woman could have been that Dustin Hoffman was sort of her father, but not her father. She may have felt uneasy saying that she was his daughter. This could have been made worse by the fact that people would have constantly referred to her father, much more so than if he hadn't been famous, so the question of her identity vis-à-vis Hoffman would have been constantly brought up. She may have been always asking herself 'do I have the right to call myself his daughter?'"

Hoffman, who always refers to Karina as his daughter, and who no doubt felt he was doing the right thing by adopting her, may well wonder what on earth he could have done to avert the later problems.

It is a question he may never satisfactorily answer.



REX FEATURES

Karina with baby daughter Bryce and Dustin Hoffman, her adoptive father. Friends say their relationship has been difficult

Colombia's killing fields

In Colombia bloodshed is nothing new, but there has been an upsurge in atrocities by paramilitaries and rebels. Vicky Burnett reports

Hernando Castiblanco smoothes the final layer of cement on the brick monument for the village's dead. A plaque will arrive in a few days, bearing the names of 13 villagers slaughtered by gunmen in November.

"This is depressing work," says Castiblanco, who knew all of the victims. "They were good people — most of them."

La Horqueta is a steamy hamlet 30 miles west of Colombia's capital of Bogotá, where local farmers come to sell passion fruit, oranges and mangoes. Nestled in a lush valley, the village has one telephone (out of order), no vicar and no local policeman.

Even though the surrounding hills are home to left-wing rebels, the bloodshed that makes this nation one of the world's most violent had yet to leave its mark on La Horqueta.

But on the morning of November 21 last year, more than a dozen men clad in army fatigues and balaclavas burst into the village shop, dragged out three men and shot them dead in front of horrified passers-by.

Five more villagers were killed in a hail of bullets after a local pulled a gun on the attackers, and another five, including a 14 and a 15-year-old boy, were later found outside the village, shot in the head with their hands tied behind their backs.

Now the village is gripped by terror. Most of the dozen houses are boarded up, their occupants fled. The shop where the massacre began is abandoned. The farmhands who swig beer outside the hamlet's only shop refuse to talk about the killing.

Cases like La Horqueta are becoming increasingly common in rural Colombia, where paramilitaries and rebels are locked in a bitter struggle for control. The opposing sides drag locals into the conflict, seeking collaboration and persecuting anyone suspected of helping the enemy.

Paramilitary organisations were formed in the 1980s by rich landowners and drug-traffickers seeking protection from rebels, who have a strong presence in the countryside and use kidnapping and extortion to help fund their cause.

Colombia's rebel groups, whose members total around 15,000, say they are fighting for social equality and land-reform, but many feel they are little more than criminals.

The paramilitaries' approach quickly became offensive rather than defensive, and their target to wrest control of rural Colombia from the guerrillas. The individual squads of the 1980s have developed into small armies, the largest being the Autodefensas de Córdoba y Urabá (ACCU), which operates in the northwest under the command of Carlos Castano. His brother, Fidel, was the driving force behind consolidating the paramilitary groups, which are estimated to number 4,000-5,000, into an armed front.

The battle between paramilitaries and rebels intensified after the guerrillas took advantage of the power vacuum left by President Ernesto Samper's Government. His ability to govern crumbled when evidence surfaced that he won the 1994 election with the help of a £3.7 million donation from the Cali cocaine cartel.

He has left rebels and paramilitaries to run riot in Colombia's huge rural areas. The Government's decision to put bounties on the heads of several bosses last month met with scepticism, since a similar announcement a year ago bore no fruit. Then the state intelligence corps, known as the DAS, published a "wanted" photo of Carlos Castano: the picture featured a local journalist's chauffeur.

The army is known to collaborate with the paramilitaries, and allegedly uses them as a scapegoat for atrocities committed by its own men. Daniel Garcia Pena, the Government's Peace Commissioner, says the majority of the armed forces turn a blind eye to paramilitary activities.

Now the paramilitary offensive is gaining momentum. In the past 12 months there have been more than 20 massacres, many of which occurred in places that have no paramilitary presence. In July, as many as 30 people are believed to have died after paramilitaries took over Mapiripan, a tiny village in the southern coca-growing area of Meta. According to witnesses, the men occupied the hamlet for several days selecting their victims, many of whom they tortured. What was alarming as the barbarity of the Mapiripan massacre was that it took place in the middle of a guerrilla stronghold, far from paramilitary territory. It was allegedly made possible by military support.

In the last six weeks of last year, there have been six massacres, like the one at La Horqueta, in which more than 60 have died. Castano told local magazine *Cambio 16* that his forces are "launching the final blow against the guerrillas" in the northwest region of Uraba, traditionally rebel territory.

The paramilitaries' aim, say analysts, is to rid rural areas of peasants who provide the guerrillas with their power base. The result is mass-flight and the concentration of large rural areas in few hands.

Over the past ten years, nearly one million people have left their homes to flee the political conflict, selling their land off cheaply or abandoning it. While both sides are responsible, paramilitaries are blamed for a recent surge in displacement.

The massacres have sent a flood of families — sometimes whole communities — from troubled villages. They seek refuge in makeshift camps, or in Colombia's city slums.

Castano has denied that his men kill indiscriminately or chase innocent people from their land. What he and his men want, he says, is to bring the rebels to their knees and force them to discuss peace.

Opinion here is divided as to whether the paramilitaries should be included in any possible peace negotiations. Some say that because their political agenda is the same as that of the Government, they have nothing to negotiate.

The paramilitary support the status quo — that is, the concentration of land, and thereby of wealth, in a few hands. Others argue that they are such a strong force in Colombia's conflict that they cannot be ignored.

Meanwhile, with the Samper administration too emasculated to negotiate with either side, any peace process will remain a fantasy at least until a new government is elected next year. And Castano's men and their rebel enemy will continue to cut a bloody trail through rural Colombia, leaving behind ghost towns like La Horqueta.



Shadow of a gunman: terror comes to Córdoba

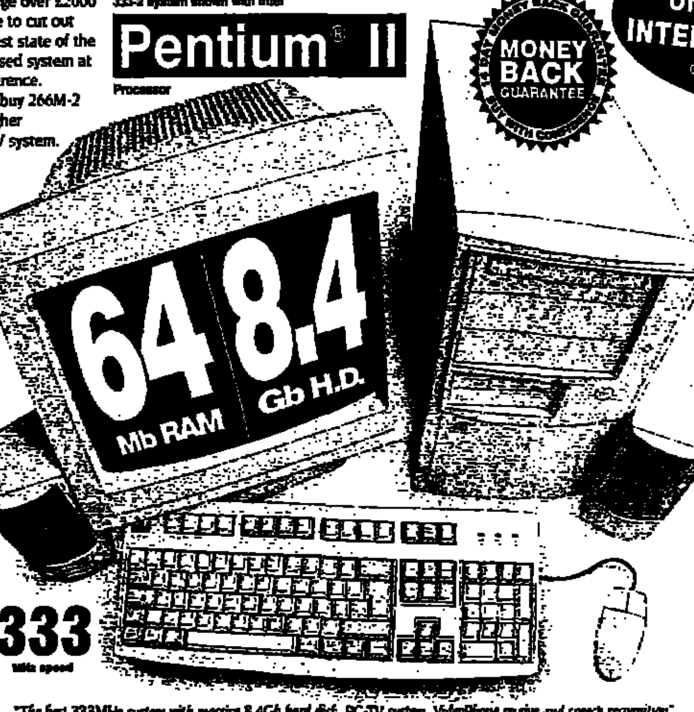
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How we will build a new Jerusalem

Patricia Hewitt on Frank Field's welfare reform Green Paper

Frank Field will today set out the Government's proposals for reforming welfare. What does new Labour want to see in today's Green Paper? What does Britain want to see? The answer to both is the same: we want to see the start of a process of reform which will reshape our welfare system for the new millennium. We want to break the cycle of dependency and insecurity, and allow *everyone* in Britain to lead a fulfilling and a dignified life.

There is both a clear need and a clear consensus for reform. Welfare isn't working: for too many people, the system is increasing their dependence on benefit, instead of helping them to lead full and independent lives. Families, individuals, pensioners and disabled people are foremost among those who are being let down. I want to see today's Green Paper prompt a wide-ranging debate, addressing the three key failings of the existing system.

First, problems of inequality and social exclusion are getting worse, despite increasing spending on their consequences. Secondly, people on welfare face a series of barriers — including financial disincentives — to moving into work. And thirdly, fraud is seeping money away from genuine claimants: £4 billion a year, or enough to give every family with children an extra £10 every week.

That's wrong. People deserve opportunities, not dependency. That is our objective. But reform must be guided by principles, as well as pounds. The Conservatives made the mistake of seeing the problem as one of cash. But if you set out simply to save money, without considering principled objectives, you find yourself spending more — as the Tories found. I am confident that our reforms will be shaped by our core values, and by the need to make welfare effective.

When the welfare state was founded, the vision behind it was clear, and broad. It encompassed all services — education and health, as well as social security. We need to recapture that original vision, but to re-present it for the modern age.

Welfare needs again to be seen broadly, just as Beveridge viewed it. We don't want to look just at poverty, or just at benefits. We need to look at a whole range of interrelated issues. Welfare is not just about insurance against unemployment, or disability, or long-term illness — though the most disadvantaged in our society do have to contend more than most with poor housing, high unemployment, poverty and crime.

Welfare is about health, about schools, about social services as well. It is about active assistance into work, not just support for people when they're out of work. It is about promoting opportunities, not just alleviating poverty. Not only do we all pay for the welfare state, we all benefit from it too.

This broader, more all-encompassing view of welfare fits better the new economic and social complexities of modern life. We are living through profound changes — many jobs becoming more insecure, women entering the workforce in increasing numbers, a widening gap between the highest and the lowest earners, a growth in the number of households where nobody is in work. At the same time, the fact of people living longer is placing new pressures on pensions and the provision of long-term care.

People used to work for 50 years and retire for 15; now the split is more like 30-30. More separation and divorce, and the rising numbers of single parents, are changing the shape of families, and people as consumers and as voters rightly expect higher quality services. And yet some people are so affected by unemployment and deprivation that they are all but excluded from our society.

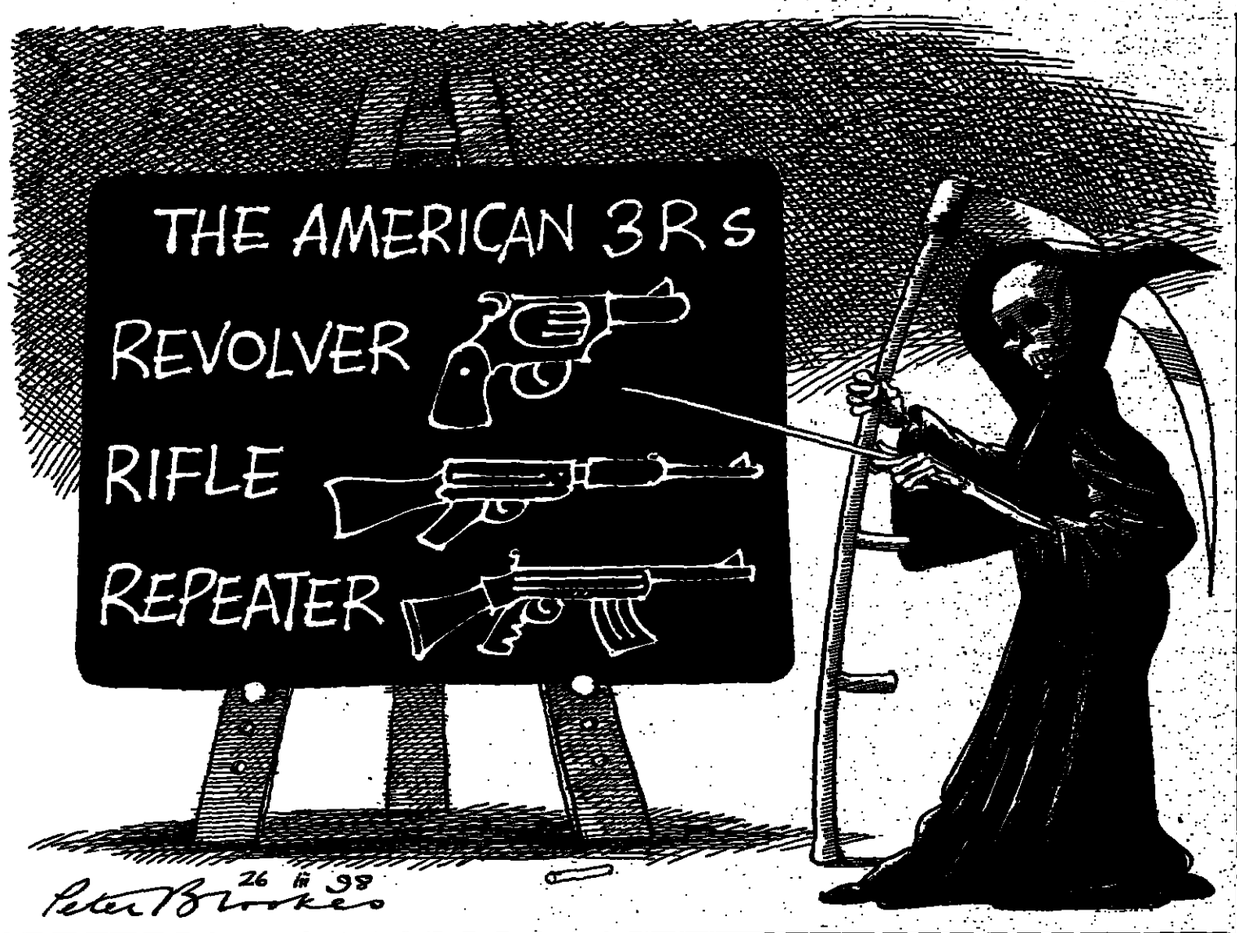
Many social and economic organisations have adjusted to these new, more complex realities. Businesses have learnt how to serve their customers. Why should claimants have to fill out their personal details time and time again? Why should they have to visit three or four different agencies to make a single claim? Why should it take months to rectify minor administrative mistakes? We need an intelligent welfare state. An active welfare state. A modern welfare state.

Building that will take time. Getting it right will take time. That's the reason why there should be no "big bang" to welfare reform, no catch-all simple "solution". So what should modern welfare involve? What should be the signposts on the map for welfare reform which Frank Field will lay out today? They should include a strong emphasis on work, as one of the best routes to a decent life. Vital to this will be our Welfare to Work programme and the measures in last week's Budget — the working families tax credit, the childcare tax credit, the reforms of the national insurance system.

They should include keeping families as the fundamental building block of society. They should include a public and private partnership on pensions — one which sees the state pension as the foundation of the system, but one which does not give the Government a monopoly on pension provision. The signposts should ensure that disabled people get the support they need to lead a full and dignified life, free from discrimination. They should stress that new investment will be made in public services — but only where there is reform. They should make sure that the delivery of benefits is efficient, and active. They should include tough measures to tackle fraud.

This is a comprehensive and challenging reform agenda. To meet it successfully, reform will need to be carried through carefully, and gradually, over a number of years. Step by step, we need to make Britain's welfare state better. I'm confident that when today's Green Paper has begun that process, we will.

The author is MP for Leicester West



The primrose path of PR

Proportional representation once helped Hitler; now it's helping Le Pen

William Rees-Mogg

The result of the French regional elections faces Lord Jenkins of Hillhead with a cruel dilemma. His political career has been built on two principles. He has always been liberal and he has always been in favour of European unity. His critics may argue that he has been too permissive a liberal, or too zealous a European, but there has been no doubt about his devotion to these causes, or his courage in upholding them. He is now the chairman of the committee to decide what reform of the electoral system would be the best alternative to the present first-past-the-post elections to single constituencies for Westminster. What he recommends will be put to a referendum.

The French regional elections have now produced results which are certainly anti-liberal, and a threat to European unity as well. Yet the Jenkins committee is generally expected to support a system of election similar to the one the French used in these elections.

France uses two different electoral systems in different types of elections. The elections to the National Assembly and to the cantonal councils are by a two-stage system; the two leading candidates on the first ballot go forward to a second election a week later. Those rare candidates fortunate enough to win more than 50 per cent on the first vote are elected straightaway. In the elections for the 22 regions of metropolitan France and the four overseas regions, the system is one of proportional representation based on party lists. That is similar to the German system, which has already been adopted for the Scottish parliament, the Welsh assembly and Britain's European elections. It has serious flaws in theory, but has worked well in Germany since the war.

The French regional results were most favourable to the National Front, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen. Since the election, President Chirac has denounced the National Front as "racist and xenophobic", with no respect for traditional republican values. That is a fair description of M Le Pen's party, and one with which Roy Jenkins would certainly agree. The National Front is illiberal, fascist and anti-European.

It won only just over 15 per cent of the regional vote in France. The left-wing coalition of Socialists, Communists and ecologists won 38 per cent, and the Centre-Right coalition of the UDF and RPR won 36 per cent. The majority of the regions were left with no outright winner. In five of them the Centre-Right candidates for regional president were then elected with National Front votes. In other regions, although the Centre-Right parties had the largest number of seats, they refused to accept National Front support and the Left won power by default. Neither outcome is satisfactory, and the French Right has been badly split.

The French Centre-Right parties promised before the elections that they would not strike any deals with the National Front, and the local politicians who have made deals have been denounced by their national leaders. However, this exaggerated influence of the National Front is a natural consequence of the proportional list system. Such systems tend to produce weak Centre coalitions, and they tend to build up the power of extreme parties by encouraging moderate parties to split.

The best-known historic example is the German elections which led up to that of November 1932, when Hitler had his opportunity. Even at that election the Nazis did not come close to winning a majority; they had a third of the vote, which gave them 247 seats. The Communists won about 100 seats, and the Centre parties were left with only 237 seats, narrowly behind the Nazis but well behind the combined anti-democratic vote. Germany had suffered from defeat in war, the great inflation of the 1920s and a great slump. France is now experiencing very high unemployment and growing resentment against immigrant workers.

One can take the case of the Scottish parliament as an example of the possible future difficulties which may arise under the proportional list system. At the 1997 election, Labour won 45.6 per cent of the vote in Scotland, the SNP won 22.1 per cent, the Conservatives 17.5 per cent and the Liberal Democrats 13 per cent. With a combined total of 58.6 per cent of the vote, a Labour-Liberal coalition would have been the natural government. But in 1992, the Lab-Lib majority would have been much smaller, with a combined vote of only 51.2 per cent. The first elections for the new parliament will come when this Government is well into its mid-term, probably after a downturn in its popularity. The polls in Scotland are already showing a surge for the SNP, and some Scottish Labour politicians are forecasting a rout.

A Lab-Lib coalition might still win a narrow majority in the first Scottish parliament, though it is equally likely that the Labour Party would need Conservative support as well. Either way, the SNP would become the permanent opposition to a relatively weak Centre coalition. The SNP is not at all a fascist party, but it is a nationalist one. In the long run the list system tends to give nationalists an advantage, because they represent a specific cause. In any case, it seems wrong that the Liberal-Democrats, the smallest of the four Scottish parties in terms of votes, should become a permanent partner in government.

The likely outcome of a proportional list system at Westminster looks no more satisfactory. The Labour and Conservative parties are both relatively fragile coalitions. Old Labour is an egalitarian party in a way new Labour is not; if old Labour were free to run its own independent lists, it would have every reason to do so, and very little reason not to. The Conservatives are divided on Europe; there might well be a similar split between pro-European and Eurosceptic groups, though that is somewhat less certain. The various nationalist parties of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland would stay much as they are, but with full proportionality they would normally win more Westminster seats.

At the next election, or perhaps the one after, there might be two Labour parties, two Conservative parties, the Liberal-Democrats and nationalists as well. The old Labour Party would have a mass constituency relatively far to the Left, an English nationalist Conservative Party would have a constituency on the Right. To form a government at all would probably require a coalition of all three Centre parties, new Labour, Liberal-Democrat and Euro-Conservative. That would be a mish-mash, unlikely to provide strong government.

Such a structure would be much weaker than the one we have at present. It would take away the ability of the electorate to turn a government out. An election defeat would merely shift the balance of the Centre coalition. Much worse, it would have created two relatively extreme parties where now all three main parties are moderate.

The danger to liberal society is inescapable. When extremist parties are independent, they will use their growing political influence to advance illiberal policies. The opportunity for extreme nationalism is likely to be even greater. The separatist Northern League in Italy developed out of a proportional system, as did the Nazis. The proportional list system for Scotland is undoubtedly designed to keep out the SNP. Sooner or later, it is likely to let them in.

The danger is real enough that Britain will nevertheless adopt this proportional list system for Westminster, as well as for Scotland, Wales and the European Parliament. It would be enormously to the narrow political advantage of the Liberal Democrats, though it might eventually destroy what they stand for. Labour does not yet see it as the mortal threat to party unity which it is. The public would be quite likely to accept the argument that proportionality is fair, should it be advanced by people it trusts, including the Prime Minister. Fortunately he is not yet convinced. The Tories will oppose it, because it would destroy their electoral prospects, but they are at present in a minority.

An historic disaster may be prevented by two arguments. The first is the robust experience of British and American democracy. Both countries use first-past-the-post electoral systems. In duration and in resilience, Britain and the United States are examples of how to make a democracy work. France has had a succession of regimes since the revolution; neither Germany nor Italy is an example to follow. The other argument is the avoidance of tyranny. Proportional representation gave us Hitler and has proved tailor-made for M Le Pen. The European Union would not survive a fascist government in a major country.

Betrayal of a generation

Ralph Harris on the high price of dependency

When, in 1977, my mother died peacefully in her bed at the grand old age of 82, I discovered carefully preserved in a shoe-box — along with family photographs, a sheaf of birth, death and marriage certificates, a Post Office savings book and a scribbled will — a bundle of faded insurance policies, the first issued 60 years earlier by the Royal Liver Friendly Society. As I held them almost reverently in my hands, the name of Mr Whale suddenly came back into my mind. He was the agent who used to call every month to collect the premiums and who became almost a longstanding friend of the family. Today, he might even qualify as a "carer".

Closer inspection revealed that my mother had been persuaded to take out a policy on the birth of each of her four children at a penny ha'penny a week, in return for a promised payment of £5 to cover burial expenses in the event of our early deaths. Today, that simple transaction shines out as a model of "welfare before the welfare state". Yet when my mother's time came, her own modest funeral cost £500.

When my mother took out those penny policies, along with fourpence a week for HSA (Hospital Savings Association), two shillings for a clothing club, and a few coppers more in the ornament on the mantelpiece "for a rainy day", she was not conscious of doing anything more than any other prudent, self-respecting working-class parents would do. But the dual debasement of public money and private thrift through inflation and unbridled state welfare have made a mockery of such ingrained habits of self-help.

If well-intentioned Fabian socialists opened the floodgates to the so-called "welfare state" at the beginning of this century, it was the rising tide of inflation after 1945 — swollen by public subsidies, taxation and budget deficits — which finally swamped self-help. If Lloyd George's unscrupulous promise of "ninepence for fourpence" provided first proof of the corrupting potential of democratic politics, at least his nominally Liberal Government after 1906 was content with piecemeal reform. Indeed, its declared purpose was to fill the gaps in voluntary, private saving and insurance, which we might today call "do-it-yourself" welfare. But none of this was good enough to satisfy short-sighted democratic politicians who fell for the folly that you can't have too much of a good thing.

In his wartime report on "social insurance", Sir William Beveridge (another nominal Liberal) acknowledged that pre-1939 provision for sickness, unemployment and old age was already more advanced in Britain than in most other countries. But his fastidious civil servant's mind was affronted by the uneven coverage, which was the inevitable result of unplanned development over the preceding century.

In the wake of the wartime coalition government, a ruling political consensus of socialist idealologues, Liberal opportunists and Tory paternalists colluded not only in welcoming the Beveridge report, but in denouncing anyone who questioned compulsory, comprehensive, state-provided welfare.

A clinching argument for the final destruction of the emerging welfare society rooted in voluntary insurance and mutual aid was that private benefits were too easily overwhelmed by rising costs. As my mother's death policies demonstrated, private long-term contracts must succumb to the fraud of inflation.

It was the sight of her shrunken bequest that rekindled my anger with politicians of all parties. They have undermined prudent self-help through three spiralling mischiefs: ceaselessly debauching the currency; exploiting the resulting anxiety as a vote-winning pretext for extending state welfare; and, finally, financing spending by extending the reach of income tax and thereby entrenching dependency at the expense of self-help. In 1945 about 5 per cent of the population looked to National Assistance for state cash; today nearer 30 per cent rely on the rechristened Income Support and other means-tested benefits.

It is no more than poetic justice that a budgetary crisis has erupted under Tony Blair. What is not clear is whether such pillars of new Labour as Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, have grasped that the cost of the welfare-inflation-taxation spiral must be reckoned not only in financial instability, but in the corrosive moral damage caused by a spread of wilful irresponsibility far beyond the formerly independent working classes. We have witnessed the pauperisation of a prosperous yet improvident people who once took pride in paying their way.

Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown may have put us on the way to banishing the scourge of inflation. The question now is whether the admirable Frank Field can once again harness thrift, self-help, mutual aid and philanthropy to build a variegated, balanced welfare society.

Lord Harris of High Cross is a cross-bencher and a lifelong opponent of over-government.

Roll players

HELPFUL friends of the Lord Chancellor in the press have shown Derry how he might have saved himself a few quid on his wallpaper. Sadly, Lord Irvine of Lairg felt that B&Q's finest could not quite capture Pugin's subtlety.

Now, however, I feel justified in raising a small question of domestic economy. For seemingly identical paper, made from the very same equipment to the rolls selected by the Lord Chancellor, could have been bagged for just £56 a throw. Irvine, perhaps persuaded by the lure of a small discount, did his shopping at Cole & Son, even though rival Watts & Co acquired the blocks from Cole in controversial fashion 25 years ago.

"We gave them an old Pugin pattern book 25 years ago as a favour," says Denis Hall, of Coles. "We thought it would be reciprocal and they would order the paper to be printed through us, but they put the design onto silkscreens — which made them cheaper — and gave us no business."

Watts insists there was no obligation on its part to order through Coles, and feels that the Lord Chancellor should have looked a little harder. "Our Pugin wallpaper is a lot cheaper, at £56 a roll, and it is very nice. The untrained eye could not tell the difference."

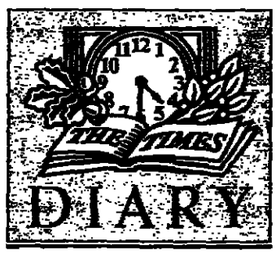
An intriguing postscript: Coles says that the Lord Chancellor underestimates the cost. "Everyone says it costs £300 a roll, but we actually charge £800," says a spokesman. "Our discount certainly was not that generous."

● *IS Baroness Thatcher's enthusiasm for Tony Blair on the wane? After she declared that he "won't let Britain down", she now confesses to dinner companions that she is "rather confused" by Blair, whom she likens to "a mixed-up kid". She fears that those surrounding the PM have a clearer idea of Government direction than he. This might dismay Blair, who curled up with Baroness T's memoirs in Tuscany. Will he still eulogise her as "a thoroughly determined person"?*

Truer blue . . .

AFTER a long and painful search, the Conservatives have found themselves a new colour. And, unlike Derry Irvine, they discovered it in a DIY store. Its name? Hague Blue. Gerald Howarth, MP, has been charged with finding a new brand with which to repackage his rather unpopular product. Having consulted 100 design groups to find a replacement for the fascistic torch, the party was poised to opt for new Labour purple. But visiting his local Homebase, Howarth found the "perfect shade of blue".

Purple and teal are still being considered, but Hague Blue, a National Trust colour favoured by fashionable sorts, is the hot tip. "Labour used our rose, so this is nothing new," says the trust amiably. "It is a wonderful, dark shade," says Howarth. "I have told Mr Hague that it's perfect. Unfortunately, he is a bit colour-blind, so someone else will have to choose."



● *AS BABES from* Friends *posed for snappers in London, Viscount Linley rose from his workbench to see what the fuss was about. Quite ignored by salivating photographers, he returned to his furniture shop looking rather forlorn.*

. . . Blue babe

THE Diary launches a campaign to have Miss Ann Widdecombe recognised as a sex goddess. The Oxford Union has dug up this delightful portrait of the Tory MP while a student in 1973, confirming my view that her sensual charms have been overlooked inexplicably.



My one concern: she seems a shade hippy-ish. I trust our heroine was not an exponent of free love and other something-of-the-night activities. Memories of our pin-up's varsity days would be appreciated.

● *DESPITE being exposed in this newspaper for planting favourable questions, the Government still has not learnt. A Labour MP was gossiping in a corridor, only to be approached by a whip. "Questions for asking here," he called out breezily, waving a bunch of papers. "What takes your fancy? Defence? Health? Home Office . . ."*

Punch lines

BOB HOSKINS suffers for his art, such as it is. Shooting Twenty-four-seven, he broke his hand during a spot of fisticuffs with his co-star Bruce Jones. Hoskins, who plays a boxing promoter, agreed to play a screen fight for real. "I said: 'Bruce son, you are really going to get hurt.'" Hoskins was as good as his word. Jones also suffered a broken hand, two ribs and a collarbone. The pair bonded in the hospital casualty department and immediately set off to get drunk. Or so he says. Oddly, aides cannot name the hospital, but I am sure these claims would not be a publicity stunt.



● *I FEAR Prince Rainier will be cross. Sharon Stone is tipped to play Princess Grace (above) in a bawdy celluloid study of passion in the Palace of Grimaldi. Cheap biographies have suggested she had many lovers. As all are safely buried, Warner Bros feels safe to go ahead. A likely scene will have Rainier asking David Niven who was the most sexually athletic actress he had known. "Grace," he is said to have replied. "Who?" Rainier ranted. "Oh, Gracie Fields."*

JASPER GERARD

MAYOR OR MOUSE

Much will depend on London's first leader

If Tony Blair had known that Ken Livingstone might emerge as the first Labour candidate for mayor of London, he may have reconsidered his enthusiasm for this innovation. If William Hague had realised that Jeffrey Archer could secure his party's nomination then he might not have reversed past policy and endorsed the new position. With the publication of the Government's White Paper *A Mayor and Assembly for London* yesterday all the aspirants for the new office will have some idea of what it is that they might inherit. Assuming that Londoners award their consent in May then the real contest will begin. The country outside the capital will also take considerable interest in an admirable experiment that might be repeated throughout Britain.

It should be said that this White Paper is a notable improvement on the Government's Green Paper on the same subject — *New Leadership for London* — launched last summer. That document offered a horrible hybrid — an executive Mayor and a strong Assembly — that would have invited partisan deadlock. John Prescott has recognised those dangers and through important amendments has entrenched the mayor's command of his own strategic plans and reduced the Assembly's ability to hold his budget to ransom. The proposed London Development Agency will now be placed under the mayor. There is still the danger of future conflict between these institutions that sit uncomfortably together. It has, though, been reduced and is not inevitable.

This does not mean that matters will be straightforward for the mayor. His or her relationship with the Assembly has been clarified but it remains unclear whether there will be real independence from ministers in Whitehall. The degree to which services such as transport, environmental health, and economic development have been decentralised is uncertain. There are important areas of incompleteness. The mayor will head a new body, Transport for London, that will apparently have considerable scope over the road network and underground system but little direct influence over commuter railway services. This would seem to be at odds with the Government's stated determination to achieve an integrated transport policy.

These doubts are reinforced by financial uncertainties. On present plans, the Greater London Authority will be entirely funded from a central government grant supplemented by a slice of council tax revenues from the 32 boroughs. There is the possibility — no more than that — of extra income from charges on motorists and parking spaces. That will depend in turn on the outcome of another White Paper on transport due later this year. It is unlikely that this will provide streets paved with gold for this prospective Dick Whittington. No self-respecting American city would accept such limits on its activities. It would appear that, not for the first time, the Treasury has arrogantly imposed its own agenda over the interests of local accountability.

The optimists believe that none of this will be important. They argue that a massive personal mandate and constant media exposure will be enough to ensure that the mayor can dominate political life in the capital. That may be true but should not be relied on. The first mayor will have to shape this office and maximise its authority. The initial incumbent will thus have exceptional importance. He or she is destined to be London's George Washington. It is unfortunate that the Government has selected an electoral system that will constrict the chances of a serious independent candidate. It is to be hoped that a wider field will put itself forward. If an elected mayor in London is not seen to succeed and quickly, the idea is unlikely to be exported elsewhere.

AWKWARD SQUAD

Ministers should not neglect the Territorial Army

Labour defence secretaries, like Tory health ministers, are rarely their party's heroes. They usually find themselves fighting rearguard actions, distrusted by the professionals whom they speak for and handicapped by their activists' prejudice in standing up for their department. George Robertson is, however, in a stronger position than many of his predecessors. His ministerial team is more sympathetic to service concerns than the bulk of his party and Tony Blair, although no traditionalist, has been audacious in his determination to maintain the strength of the nation's defences. Moreover, the Tories, having presided over a series of painful retrenchments, are compromised in their ability to attack Labour. Mr Robertson has, in consequence, been able to press ahead with his own defence review without the enfilade fire from right or left that might have been expected. That does not, however, mean his plans are impregnable to criticism. The broad thrust of his reported intentions appear to be laudable but there are individual initiatives which have been floated which should cause concern well beyond traditional staff colleges and mess rooms.

The area of most immediate concern is the proposal to diminish the role of the Territorial Army. Modern warfare makes the role of reservists less vital than in the past but there are long-term costs as well as short-term savings in winding down the TA. The prime requirement for Britain's defence forces should be the rapid projection of maximum force to unexpected theatres of conflict. The recent crisis in the Gulf emphasises how quickly diplomatic disputes can escalate and how limited traditional units, such as heavy armoured divisions, are in meeting many new challenges. It can take three times as long to mobilise TA units as their regular counterparts and willingness is no substitute for readiness. But the ability to prosecute a conflict successfully in a modern liberal democracy depends on more than just the speed with which professionals can be deployed. It requires a broad-based understanding of the service ethos and army needs which ensures that the relationship between the military and public remains strong and does not become a matter of "them" and "us".

In order to ensure that British power can be adequately projected and British interests adequately protected the resources need to be found in a tight budget to maintain a carrier capability, a flexible nuclear submarine fleet and a more integrated air-mobile force. Ensuring that the front line comes first and is flexible remains the highest priority. But that should not lead to the neglect of Britain's reserve strength.

The TA plays a vital role in the daily exercise of British forces abroad, with around 10 per cent of troops in Bosnia coming from the reserves. The TA soldiers in the former Yugoslavia include signals and other experts whose skills are invaluable in making a success of the peace-keeping operations. To dispense with their services could be a false economy. It could also contribute to the estrangement of the Services from the mainstream of civilian life. With schools and universities loosening their links with the Services and many regiments reporting recruiting problems there is a case for proceeding cautiously with any weakening of other existing links between the military and Middle England. The economies to be gained from winding down the TA are real, but the difficulties in reviving a valuable arm of our defence once lost are no less real. This Government should learn from the mistakes of the last and recognise that institutions have a value beyond their price.

TOGETHER IN TRAGEDY

The response in Arkansas will not be that of Dunblane

The scale of the slaughter may have been smaller but the circumstances of the killings were, if anything, even more chilling. The extraordinary attack on a school in Jonesboro, Arkansas, inevitably brought back memories of the Dunblane massacre two years ago. In the former case, the murderer was an obsessive loner with an intense hatred for a community and access to handguns. In Arkansas, two boys aged 11 and 13 were able to acquire a considerably more sophisticated arsenal and unleashed an attack for little more — as far as can be evaluated at this stage — than reasons of personal pique or entertainment value.

The Dunblane atrocity had an instant and dramatic impact. It became impossible, overnight, to justify the private ownership of handguns, even though Britain already had a relatively tight regulatory system over such weapons. It should be said that the political response to Dunblane might have been somewhat different if shotguns not handguns had been the medium of destruction. The Hungerford massacre 12 years ago — similar in terms of lives lost and sheer shock — did not trigger the same reaction. Even if Parliament had decided to act then it would have permitted exceptions to account for the realities of rural life. Nevertheless, inactivity would have been inconceivable after the violent deaths of so many children.

Arkansas is different. Jonesboro sits in the northeastern corner of that state. It lies in a predominantly agricultural area with a per capita income less than half of the American average. This is an area of economic underdevelopment and modest educational attainment. Life revolves around easy access to the automobile and firearms. Children can usually obtain both. The state statistics for road accidents are as striking as those involving weapons. These are symbols of individual freedom considered essential for collective existence. When Governor Bill Clinton increased the costs of driving in 1980 he was swiftly ejected from office. He never attempted to take on the rural gun fraternity. His Republican successor, Mike Huckabee, is unlikely to take a different attitude.

The best that can be hoped is that state law might be tightened on the narrow points of children and firearms. Security around schools will doubtless be tightened. However, there will be no frontal assault on the culture out of which these killings came. It will remain the case that, despite the popular impression offered by television, rural America retains a far higher proportion of weapons per person than cities such as New York where crime is now falling. The President has often spoken wistfully of his own hometown of Hope. Arkansas has now, sadly, felt fear but will do little about it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Disposal of waste from Dome site

From the Managing Director of Fluor Daniel GTI

Sir, As the Chair of the Environment Industries Commission's Contaminated Land Working Group, I feel that your report, "Lethal Dome waste dumped in villages" (March 21), gave a misleading impression both of the land cleaning work at the Greenwich millennium site and the off-site disposal of waste.

New techniques were indeed used to treat contamination on the millennium project; over 200,000 cubic metres of contaminated soil beneath the footprint of the Dome were treated in situ. This pioneering work was conducted by my company, one of the world's largest specialist assessment and remediation (soil cleaning) firms.

It took 20 weeks and primarily treated volatile organic chemicals, such as benzene, and was completed in March 1997. The volume of material treated this way was similar to the volume taken off site, but the on-site treatment was considerably cheaper than the dig-and-haul option.

However, not all the site contamination was treatable on site. Arsenic, cyanide and tar waste cannot yet be cost-effectively treated in situ and there is little alternative to using it for landfill.

Much as I dislike the dig-and-haul solution as unsustainable in the long term because of depleting landfill space, and the transportation as potentially unsafe, once the waste reaches its final destination the clay-lined landfill is certainly safer than leaving it at the millennium site.

The real contaminated land scandal is not the millennium site, but continued government delays in confirming a clear and concise framework for contaminated land issues. This creates confusion, uncertainty and unnecessary development on greenfield sites.

Yours sincerely
JOHN WATERS,
Managing Director,
Fluor Daniel GTI,
10 First Quarter,
Blenheim Road, Epsom KT19 9QN.
johnmw@globalnet.co.uk
March 22.

From the Managing Director of BG plc, Property Division

Sir, It is not true and will have caused unnecessary alarm to say, as your headline put it, that "lethal Dome waste" is being "dumped in villages".

In fact, waste from our work on the Millennium Exhibition site has only been disposed of at landfill sites which have been specifically licensed for the purpose and which are safe, secure and extensively monitored by local authorities and independent regulators.

The procedure for cleaning up the Greenwich site conforms with the highest possible standards and, contrary to your claim, exploits the latest technology. Safety, rather than speed or cost, is the key factor.

Urban regeneration is key to improving the environment in cities. In Greenwich, a once derelict and polluted urban site is now being cleaned up and returned to beneficial community use. What is happening there will be repeated all over the country, if development on greenfield sites is to be minimised.

Yours sincerely,
ROY M. DANTZIC,
Managing Director,
BG plc, Property Division,
7th Floor,
1 Great Cumberland Place,
London W1H 7AL.
March 23.

From the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency for England and Wales

Sir, The Millennium Exhibition site at Greenwich is an example of the rehabilitation of urban brownfield sites for which Friends of the Earth has long campaigned.

Waste soil from the millennium site is being disposed of in landfill sites which are amongst the most technically sophisticated and safest in Europe, and are closely monitored by this agency.

The waste soil is far safer in these landfill sites than in its previous location.

Yours faithfully,
ED GALLAGHER,
Chief Executive,
The Environment Agency for England and Wales,
Hampton House,
20 Albert Embankment,
London SE1 7TJ.
March 23.

From Mr E. B. Shaxson

Sir, Is the transfer of lethal waste from the Dome site in London to rural areas the urban dwellers' or the Government's riposte to the recent Countryside Rally?

Yours etc,
BRUCE SHAXSON,
8 Oakhurst,
Grayshott, Surrey GU26 6JW.
March 21.

Business letters, page 31

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Captivity as a bar to conservation

From Miss Frances Clarke

Sir, I should like to take issue with the point in your leading article (March 24) calling for improved standards in European zoos that "Captive breeding programmes are a cornerstone of animal conservation."

Animal welfare groups are indeed seeking to improve the fate of animals in captivity and we totally agree that tourists should not visit any zoo that does not consider the welfare of its collections. However, we disagree with the impression that zoos are a stronghold for animal conservation.

In my experience scientific research and conservation can also be used as a convenient justification for captivity. The most blatant offenders are dolphinariums, particularly European ones.

For example, Malta imported four Black Sea bottlenose dolphins for scientific research; they remain simply on public display and we are not aware of any published papers. This is not always the best conservation strategy and it is defeatist to state that the end of natural habitats is inevitable.

Some species are inherently unsuited to captivity, particularly marine mammals. All too often scientific research on marine mammals is self-justifying and serves only to help to improve captivity life-spans or maintain a captive population, instead of helping wild populations. For example, captive scientific research has done nothing to predict or prevent dolphin mass mortalities in the Mediterranean and US.

Britain is a leading light on this issue, since we do not have any dolphinariums. We should be persuading other European countries to abandon theirs.

It is dangerous to look to zoos to save some species when habitat conservation is still the best strategy for most wildlife conservation. There can be no scientific justification for maintaining bottlenose dolphins for "captive breeding conservation" as wild populations are not in dramatic decline.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCES CLARKE
(Campaigns Co-ordinator),
The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society,
Alexander House,
James Street West, Bath BA1 2BT.
March 24.

Diabetic drivers

From Dr Peter Densham

Sir, I, too, find the new restrictions concerning insulin-treated diabetic drivers (Mr K. G. Clarke's letter, March 23) illogical, ill-conceived and profoundly discriminatory.

I have been a GP for 26 years, a medical examiner for the DVLA and a divisional police surgeon for many years. During that time I have encountered and examined a large number of drivers of all ages and with numerous medical conditions.

On only two occasions hypoglycaemia (low blood sugar) played a direct part in the causation of an accident. Alcohol, illegal drugs and a vast array of prescribed sedatives, tranquillisers, antidepressants, etc, have been far more important factors in the cases in which I have been professionally involved.

Other factors, such as the physical and mental fitness to drive, should also perhaps be addressed before deciding to discriminate against a group of drivers who, in my experience, are a good deal more careful than many of their fellow road users.

If insulin-treated drivers pose such a danger, it must surely follow that an insulin-treated doctor, dentist or nurse, for instance, should not be allowed to practise medicine, administer anaesthetics, etc, in case they become hypoglycaemic, confused, and thereby put patients at risk.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DENSHAM,
The Medical Centre,
St Marychurch,
Torquay, Devon TQ1 4QX.
pdensham@aol.com
March 23.

From Mr Callan Dick

Sir, The blanket ban on diabetic drivers holding HGV licences needs to be challenged on a number of levels.

As I understand it, the legislation was not decided in Westminster, but merely ratified an EU directive which harmonises regulations throughout member countries. This legislation is supposedly based on the "well documented" risks of sudden hypoglycaemia when on insulin treatment, yet I am aware of no source for this claim. I strongly suspect that if such evidence existed it is now long out of date.

When I met my wife four years ago she added me to her car insurance as a named driver and, because of my diabetes, she was initially quoted premiums of up to three times what she was already paying.

Yet within the past two or three years most insurance companies have minimised or completely abandoned such loading. It appears that they no longer believe there is a justification for it.

Yours sincerely,
CALLAN DICK,
16 Goodview Gardens,
Larkhall, Lanarkshire ML9 2LA.
March 24.

From Mrs Elizabeth Allen

Sir, Mr K. G. Clarke states that hypoglycaemia does not happen without warning. If this is his experience, he is fortunate. Although not a diabetic myself, I know from close involvement with one that hypoglycaemia can, and in her case often does, start to occur without the sufferer being aware of it until it is too late for self-treatment.

I have, on a number of occasions, been in the unhappy position of having virtually to force-feed glucose, in order to avert a lapse into unconsciousness. A diabetic of this type is a potential danger both to himself and to the general public, whatever size of vehicle he may be driving.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ALLEN,
13 Castle Street, Hereford HR1 2NL.
March 24.

Leaders in Africa

From Mr Dele Ogun

Sir, Was the convergence of the leaders of the material and spiritual world in Africa this week by coincidence or design (reports, March 23 and 24)?

While President Clinton visits the countries that have shown penitence and now need international support to keep them on the true path, such as Ghana, Uganda and South Africa, the Pope goes to unrepentant Nigeria, which appears to need prayers and miracles more than anything else.

In my view, Clinton's visit to the new "reform club" African leaders has already done more for these countries and their leaders than any amount of aid, alone, could ever do: "Well done" are words beyond measure in monetary terms.

Yours faithfully,
DELE OGUN (senior partner),
Ogun Solicitors,
368 City Road, EC1V 1LR.
March 24.

Major and Trollope

From the Very Reverend Michael Mayne

Sir, May I comment on the report in your Diary of March 23 that John Major is to be garlanded by the Trollope Society for "securing a place in Poets' Corner" for Anthony Trollope.

When the society approached me, as Dean of Westminster, I was in no doubt that I would agree; but first I followed the invariable practice of inviting the considered views of a number of literary critics and academics. All were positive.

Among other letters that arrived was one from Mr Major. His views were welcome, but not even Prime Ministers have the power to decide which writers should be memorialised in the Abbey.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAYNE
(Dean of Westminster, 1986-96),
37 St Mark's Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 3AY.
March 24.

Aitken defence

From Mr David Leigh

Sir, I was the producer of the original TV programme, *Jonathan of Arabia*, which led to Jonathan Aitken's libel case. I am astonished by the letter from Lord Pearson of Rannoch (March 21), claiming that "the defendants withdrew the most serious of their pimping allegations, leaving only the assertions of a dismissed couple".

This is a completely false picture. Mr Aitken sued over the TV programme and the associated *Guardian* article, in which witnesses said that in their hearing he once suggested girls be got to entertain some Arabs. This was the "pimping allegation", and Mr Aitken said it was "wicked lies".

I and the other defendants stood by every single word spoken by interviewees. At the libel trial, we had no fewer than four witnesses ready to testify in support of the pimping allegation.

So, technically, just as your columnist Matthew Parris wrote in his original draft for his book (article, March 13), "We do not know if Aitken pimped for Arabs ... because the matters were not tested in court before the case fell".

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LEIGH,
The Guardian,
119 Farringdon Road, EC1R 3ER.
March 21.

Indian 'dancing bears'

From Mrs Denise Hirst

Sir, Thank you for highlighting the plight of "dancing bears" in India and the torture they must endure to entertain (report, March 14).

India is one place I will never be visiting until this cruelty is stopped.

Yours faithfully,
DENISE HIRST,
41 Main Street,
Shadwell, Leeds LS17 8EU.
March 16.

Labour decision to desert Blackpool

From Mrs Carol Beverley McGlynn

Sir, Well, finally new Labour are *really* starting to come out in their true colours. No longer content with trying to popularise our unique monarchy and dissipate our "pomp and circumstance" traditions — of which, as a British subject, I am fiercely proud — they are now hitting the working man.

Abandoning Blackpool as one of their conference venues (report, March 25) because, in words attributed to them on local radio and TV reports, the accommodation is too "shabby" and facilities too "cramped" is too demeaning for words. Diplomacy might not have gone amiss in this situation, although this would appear to be a talent new Labour are reluctant to employ.

I am so pleased for our Government that they think the south coast offers the comfort and the space they require for the conference: Bournemouth (1999), Brighton (2000 and 2001) ... next stop Benidorm? No, I do apologise, that's not good enough ... Marbella perhaps?

With regards from the frozen working-class North,
CAROL BEVERLEY McGLYNN,
173 Newton Drive,
Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 8ND.
March 24.

From Mrs Moira Hoffman

Sir, I am not a biased southerner, having lived in Lancashire for many years, but I would agree with Bill Scott, proprietor of Blackpool's River House Hotel, that Blackpool has only itself to blame for the Labour Party's decision.

In 1996 I was a constituency delegate, and spent a lot of time researching hotel accommodation. As the constituency was paying the bill I chose a small hotel, from a brochure which said all rooms had been recently refurbished. I booked a double room with single occupancy, paying double-room price.

All the refurbished rooms went to couples. I was in the basement, where the shower room left much to be desired; another delegate who was a single occupier was in a garret with a draughty window. Both rooms were very poorly furnished and bleak. The fact that the food was good did not at all compensate for the overcharging to cash in on the high demand for accommodation in conference week.

By contrast, last year's conference in Brighton was a delightful experience.

Yours sincerely,
MOIRA HOFFMAN,
7 Mill Meadow, Tenbury Wells,
Worcestershire WR15 8HX.
moirahoffman@mcmail.com
March 25.

Hereditary peeresses

From the Editor of Dod's Parliamentary Companion

Sir, Further to Nicholas Brown's letter (March 23), the last peeress to succeed in terminating an abeyance was Baroness Berners in 1995. The barony was abeyant from 1992 to 1995 and prior to 1992 had been held by her mother.

There are currently 16 women peers by succession in the Lords. In addition there are over 50 titles, mainly earldoms and baronies, which can pass in the female line in default of male issue. Some are abeyant; others are subsumed in higher honours.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BEDFORD, Editor,
Dod's Parliamentary Companion,
Vacher Dod Publishing Limited,
PO Box 3700, London SW1E 5NP.
March 23.

Strapped for space

From Dr William Affleck

Sir, Mr P. Sutcliffe (letter, March 21) suggests a useful definition of "elitist" as that which is not "able to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs". Travellers struggling for space on the London Underground have probably long sought an adjective for their transport which can be used in front of the children. Now they have one.

Yours sincerely,
W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill, Watledge,
Nailsworth, Stroud GL6 0AS.
100443.2430@compuserve.com
March 21.

Railroaded?

From Mr Richard Ploszek

Sir, Just the other day I was caught in traffic on the M25 during a journey back to London. After a frustrating crawl I found that the hold-up had been caused by a Channel Tunnel locomotive on a low-loader lorry with a police escort.

At this point I remembered that the Chancellor plans to reduce road tax for some (energy-efficient) lorries, a decision which, if it is already cheaper to send locomotives around the country by road rather than rail, can do little to foster Mr Prescott's plans for an integrated transport policy.

Once upon a time, not that long ago, we were encouraged to put our car on a train for long journeys.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PLOSZEK,
66 Tiller Road, E14 8NN.
richard.ploszek@raes.org.uk
March 24.

هكذا من الأصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: His Excellency Señor Raúl dos Santos was received in audience by The Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Paraguay to the Court of St James's.

Señora dos Santos was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Rt Hon George Robertson MP (Secretary of State for Defence) had an audience of The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Royal Honorary Colonel, this morning inspected a Regimental Guard of Honour of The Trinidad and Tobago Regiment at the President's House, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

His Royal Highness afterwards departed Trinidad and Tobago for Barbados.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, later undertook the following engagements in Barbados.

His Royal Highness attended a Caribbean Award Scheme Council Meeting, followed by a Lunch, at the Royal Westmoreland Resort, Bridgetown.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended a Reception at Government House, Bridgetown, for Young People who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a World Fellowship Dinner at the Sandy Lane Hotel.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Haskel (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sir Donald Murray (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden) which was held in St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row, London SW1, this morning.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 25: Miss Mary Doran had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother yesterday when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated her with a Bar to the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: The Duke of York, Commodore, this evening attended a Dinner given by the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: The Princess Royal, Patron, British Quality Foundation, this morning attended the Joint Award Winners Conference at the Brewery Conference Centre, Chiswell Street, London EC1.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, later attended a National Olympic Committee Meeting at The Queen's Club, Palliser Road, Barons Court, London W14.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 25: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Cambridgeshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr James Crowden).

His Royal Highness, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this morning opened Elgood Hall, St John's Ambulance Headquarters, Wisbech.

The Duke of Gloucester afterwards opened the new premises of St Matthew Society, Kirkgate Street, Wisbech.

His Royal Highness later visited the Octavia Hill Birthplace Museum, Wisbech.

The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon visited the Imperial War Museum, Duxford Airfield, Cambridge.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Alan Waterworth).

Her Royal Highness visited the Orchard Leonard Cheshire Home to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation in Liverpool.

The Duchess of Gloucester afterwards visited the QVC (Quality, Value and Convenience) Customer Operations Centre, Kirkby, Knowsley.

Her Royal Highness later opened Redford Court, Liverpool, for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 25: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of Trustees, The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (United Kingdom Fund), this morning attended the Annual Trustees' Meeting at Whitehead Mann Group, Hill Street, London W1.

His Royal Highness, Honorary Liveryman, the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers this afternoon attended a Charities Lunch at Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, London EC3.

The Duke of Kent, President, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, later received Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert upon relinquishing his appointment as Chairman and Admiral Sir John Kerr upon assuming the appointment.

Royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a dinner at St. James's Palace at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of Save the Children Fund, will attend a council meeting at 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8, at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent will open the Police Scientific Development Branch Equipment Exhibition, at the Police Staff College, Bramshill, Hampshire, at 10.00.

Thanksgiving service

St Bartholomew's Priory and Hospital
The Dean of Westminster preached the sermon at a service of thanksgiving held yesterday in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, EC1, to mark the 875th anniversary of the founding of the priory and hospital. The Rector officiated, assisted by the Rev Michael Thompson and the Rev Peter Cowell. Mr W. Maunder Taylor, churchwarden, and Professor G.M. Besser read the lessons. Later, Alderman Sir John Chalstrey, Professor M. Lessof, chairman Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, and Mr S.T. Gray, Chairman, Special Trustees for St Bartholomew's, were the speakers at a luncheon held in the Great Hall of the hospital.

Birthdays today

Mr Graham Barlow, cricketer, 48; Mr Pierre Boulez, composer and conductor, 73; Lord Chetwode, 61; Miss Kyung-Wha Chung, violinist, 50; Mr Piers Gardner, director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 44; Lord Graham of Edmonton, 73; Mr William Hague, Leader of HM Opposition, 37; Her Honour Jean Graham Hall, 81; Baroness Hayman, 49; Lord Hooson, QC, 73; Sir Peter Horsley, chairman, Osprey Aviation, 77; Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, novelist, 75; the Right Rev Bill Ind, Bishop of Truro, 56; Sir George Jefferson, former chairman, British Telecom, 77; Sir Bernard Katz, FRS, biophysicist, 87; the Earl of Kinnoull, 63; Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, 84; Sir Leslie Melville, economist, 96; Mr Leonard Nimoy, actor and producer, 67; Mr G.T. Pryce, former chief executive, Dalgety, 64; Mr Harry Rabinowitz, conductor and composer, 82; Miss Diana Ross, singer, 54; Professor Stuart Sutherland, Professor Emeritus, Experimental Psychology, Sussex University, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, 59; Mr Amédée Turner, QC, and former MEP, 69; Mr Colin Webb, former general manager, Press Association, 59.

Appointment

Mr Michael Huebner, Chief Executive of the Court Service, is to head the Judicial Appointments Group at the Lord Chancellor's Department.

ANTHONY UPTON



Martin Yeoman, the artist, with his portrait of Lord Alexander of Tunis, which is to hang in the British Ambassador's residence in Tunis to commemorate one of Britain's most celebrated war heroes and the founder of the British Tunisian Society. Martin Yeoman's portraits of the Queen's grandchildren, commissioned by the Royal Household, were exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery. He regularly accompanies the Prince of Wales on overseas tours. Many of his works are in the Prince's personal collection

O.A. Guggenheim

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Oscar A. Guggenheim will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, on Friday, April 24, at noon.

Captain Kenneth Rupert Watt

A memorial service for Captain Kenneth Rupert Watt will be held at St Mary's Church, St Mary's Square, Newmarket, Suffolk at 11am on Friday, May 1, 1998.

Reception

The London Institute
Mr Julian E. Markham, Chairman of the London Institute, and Sir William Stubbs, Rector, were the hosts at receptions held on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Institute's Gallery at 65 Davies Street, London, W1, to launch the Institute's Annual Report. The guests included: Ambassadors, Members of Parliament and leading figures from the worlds of business, education and art and design. The guests also had the opportunity to preview *Drawing Itself*, an exhibition which includes the work of distinguished former students and tutors.

Dinner

King's College London
The King's College London Association (KCLA) honoured two of its members, Mr Justice Sullivan and Mr Justice Penry-Davey, at the Association's Dinner in King's College last Friday night. The President of the Association, Mr David Foskett, QC, the Chairman of the Association, Mrs Jo Crocker, the College Principal, Professor Arthur Lucas, a former Principal, Sir Richard Way, and the College Secretary, Mr William Slade, FKC, were present. Guests included Lord Justice Auld, FKC, His Honour Judge David Wilcox, His Honour Judge David Mellor, Her Honour Judge Judith Daley, His Honour Judge John Toulmin, CMG, QC, His Honour Judge Graham Boal, QC, Professor John Uff, QC, Mr David Goy, QC, Miss Jean Ritchie, QC, Mr Stephen Leslie, QC, Mr Timothy Raggatt, QC, Mr Ian Glen, QC, Mr Alan Jeffreys, QC, Mr Richard Price, OBE, QC, Dr Helen Hudson, FKC, Professor Robin Morse, Head of the School of Law.

Travellers Club

Mr Michael Palin, traveller and author, was guest of honour and speaker at a Library Evening on Wednesday, March 25. The title of his address was "Travel Addiction: is There a Cure?". The Chairman of the Library Committee, Mr Frank Herrmann, presided.

Memorial services

Sir Donald Murray
The Queen was represented by Lord Haskel at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Donald Murray, former Ambassador to Sweden, held yesterday at St Stephen with St John, Westminster.

The Rev Ralph Godsall officiated. Sir Denis Wright read the lesson, Mrs Cherry Hopkins read *Death is Nothing at All* by Canon Henry Scott Holland and Mr Alex Murray, son, read *Rendezvous* by Lady Greenhill of Harrow. Sir John Killick gave an address. During the service Thomas Webb-Wilson, grandson, sang *Morning has Broken* by Eleanor Farjeon. Sir Michael Pike represented the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mr Francis Richards represented the Permanent Under Secretary of State. Among others present were:

Lady Murray (widow), Mr and Mrs Neil Murray (son and daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Iain Webb-Wilson (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs Ian Murray and Mrs Alex Murray (daughters-in-law), Andrew, Alastair, Kirstie, Jamie, Helen, Aeneas and Archie Murray and Lucy Webb-Wilson (grandchildren), Mr John Hopkins, Mrs Bridget Webb-Wilson.

The Swedish Ambassador, Patricia Countess Jellicoe, Lord and Lady Strabolgi, Lord Rodgers of Quarrybank, Lord Wright of Richmond, Lord Campbell of Croy, Lord Berkeley, Lady Greenhill of Harrow, Sir Michael Palliser, Mr Michael Howard, QC, MP, Sir Harold and Lady Walker, Lady Dora Pink.

The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham, Sir John and Lady Graham, Lady Dawson, Sir Harold Hood, Sir John Margetson, Sir Michael and Lady Simpson-Orlebar, Sir Raymond Whitney, MP, Sir Nicholas and Lady Henderson, Sir Peter Marshall, Sir Robin and Lady McLaren, Field Marshal Sir Roland Gibbs, Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards, Sir Alan Campbell, Lady (Denis) Wright, Sir Harold Smedley, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, Sir David and Lady Goodall, Sir Michael Scott, Sir Nicholas Fenn, Sir Peter and Lady Scott, Dame Gillian Brown, Sir Hugh and Lady Cortazzi.

Prince and Princess Alexander Croÿ, Baron Vaes, Miss Celia Pink, Mr and Mrs Alan Brooke Turner, Mr Henry B McKenzie Johnston, Mr and Mrs Max Taylor, Mr and Mrs Henry Hainworth, Air Vice-Marshal H A Merriman, Professor and Mrs Hans Rausing, Mr Richard Clift, Mr and Mrs David Easton, Mr W H Baker, Mrs James Hudson, Mr and Mrs William Corderoy.

Captain R H Norman, RN (Kent branch chairman, SSAFA Forces Help), Mr and Mrs Philip Mallet (chairman, Anglo-Swedish Association), Mr Ken Johnson (Blackheath Harriers) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Air Vice-Marshal M.D. Lyne, AFC**
The Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Vice-Marshal M.D. Lyne, former Director-General Training, RAF, in the college chapel of the Royal Air Force College Cranwell. The College Chaplain officiated, assisted by the Ven Brian Lucas, Canon John Hanson and the Rev John Patrick. The Bishop of Lincoln pronounced the blessing. The Ven Robin Turner, Chaplain-in-Chief RAF and Archdeacon of the RAF, was robed and in the Sanctuary.

Air Vice-Marshal J.H. Thompson, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant, Royal Air Force College Cranwell, read the lesson. Dr Peter Lyne, son, read from the works of Kierkegaard and Mr Roderic Lyne, son, read from Gray's *Elegy*. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Chief of Air Staff, gave an address. Among others present were:

Mrs Lyne (widow), Mr and Mrs Peter Rutledge, Mr and Mrs Martin Latham (sons-in-law and daughters), Mrs Peter Lyne, Mrs Roderic Lyne (daughters-in-law), Dr Cynthia Lyne (sister), Mr Thomas Lyne, Miss Alice Lyne, Mr Robert Lyne, Miss Jennifer Lyne, Mr Jethro Lyne, Mr Andrei Lyne, Mr Michael Rutledge, Miss Fiona Rutledge, (grandchildren), Dr and Mrs A Anato-Dumelo, Mr Michael Anato-Dumelo, and Miss Angela Anato-Dumelo.

Ann Countess of Yarborough, the Right Rev Kenneth Riches, Marshal of the RAF Lord Craig of Radley, Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael Beetham, Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison (Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Strike Command), Air Chief Marshal Sir John Cheshire (Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, North West Europe), Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Freer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Harcourt-Smith, Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Lady Stack, Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, Air Marshal Sir Roy Austen-Smith, Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey (RAF Historical Society), Air Marshal Sir Peter Squire (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, Programmes and Personnel), Lady Johns, Lady Neville.

Air Marshal G A Robertson, Air Marshal C G Terry, Air Vice-Marshal E H Macey, Air Vice-Marshal G C Lamb, Air Vice-Marshal B H Lucas, Air Vice-Marshal L W Phipps (19 (F) Squadron Association), Air Vice-Marshal J W Price, Air Vice-Marshal R M Robson, Air Vice-Marshal A J Stables, Air Vice-Marshal T P White.

Air Vice-Marshal R H Wood, Major-General Robert Gordon Finlayson, Air Commodore E G P Jeffrey, Air Commodore A A N Nicholson, Air Commodore C E P Suttie, Air Commodore V L Warrington, Air Commodore R H G Weighill, Brigadier J Walker, Group Captain R Williams, Wing Commander L L Harland, Squadron Leader P J Symes, Squadron Leader C Francis (54 Squadron Association), Squadron Leader R B Glover (president, Air Crew Association, Lincolnshire).

Dr Brian Mitchell, Mr Simon Turner, Mr T W Tyrwhitt, Mrs John Hanson, Mrs Brian Lucas, Mrs J H Thompson, Mrs J G Ruddock, Mrs I D Macfadyen (representing the Director-General, Saudi Arabian Armed Forces Project), Mrs M Mottram (British Heart Foundation), and many other friends and former colleagues.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Wollaston, philosopher, Coton, near Stafford, 1659; Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count von Rumford, physicist and co-founder of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Woburn, Massachusetts, 1753; George Smith, assyriologist, London, 1840; David Alfred Thomas, 1st Viscount Rhondda, statesman and financier, Ysgyborwen, Glamorganshire, 1856; A.E. Housman, poet and scholar, Fockbury, Worcestershire, 1859; Robert Frost, poet, San Francisco, 1874; Sir Gerald du Maurier, actor-manager, London, 1874; Wilhelm Backhaus, pianist, Leipzig, 1884; Tennessee Williams, dramatist, Columbus, Mississippi, 1911.

DEATHS: Sir Thomas Elyot, diplomat, Carleton, Cambridgeshire, 1546; John Winthrop, Puritan and 1st Governor of Massachusetts, Boston, 1649; Sir John Vanbrugh, dramatist and architect, London, 1726; James Hutton, geologist, Edinburgh, 1797; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer, Vienna, 1827; Thomas Hancock, pioneer of the rubber industry, Stoke Newington, 1865; Walt Whitman, poet, Camden, New Jersey, 1892; Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of Cape Colony 1890-96, Muizenberg, South Africa, 1902; Sarah Bernhardt, actress, Paris, 1923; David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, Prime Minister 1916-22, Ty Newydd, 1945; Raymond Chandler, novelist, La Jolla, California, 1959; Sir Noel Coward, playwright and composer, St Mary, Jamaica, 1973.

The Sabi Game Reserve, the world's first officially designated game reserve, opened in South Africa, 1878.

The first cremation in England took place, Woking, 1886.

Driving tests were introduced, 1934.

President Jimmy Carter of the United States witnessed the signing of a peace treaty by Israeli Prime Minister Menachim Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, 1979.

The Royal Society of Chemistry

The following were admitted as Fellows of The Royal Society of Chemistry in March 1998. They are entitled to use the designation 'Chartered Chemist' and the letters CChem FRSC:

P J Baxter, G J Blaker, P M Budd, A R Byrne, M N Clifford, C A Galloway, K H Gibson, M J Hardy, S W Harper, R W Hiley, B J Howlin, J G King, V Kren, H E Moser, A Nunn, D R Orbison, R J Parker, D E A Roebuck, P K Sen, V Simanek.

Service dinner

King's Own Royal Border Regiment
Major General R.J. Hodges, CB, OBE, Colonel of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, was the guest of honour at a dinner held at the 'Tom Factory', Gornji Vakuf, on the occasion of his visit to the First Battalion currently serving in Central Bosnia.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Christopher Atkinson, Vicar, Cartmel, and Rural Dean of Windermere (Durham): to be Team Rector, Bensham (same diocese).

The Rev David Bailey, Vicar, Beverley Minster, and Curate-in-Charge, Routh (York): to be non-residentiary Canon, York Minster (same diocese).

The Rev David Boddy, Priest-in-Charge, Shiney Row, and Herrington (Durham): to be Team Vicar, South Shields All Saints with special responsibility for Whiteleas St Mary w St Martin, and Chaplain, Northumbria Deaf Mission (same diocese).

The Rev John Cassleton, Chaplain, St Clements Hospital and St Elizabeth Hospice (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich): to be full-time Chaplain, St Elizabeth Hospice (same diocese).

The Rev Simon Cawdell, Curate, Cheam Common St Philip (Southwark): to be Priest-in-Charge, Claverley w Tuckhill (Hereford).

Canon Alan Cole, Priest-in-Charge, Gamlingay w Hatley and East Hatley (Ely): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Everton w Tetworth (same diocese).

The Rev Elaine Constantine, Assistant Curate, Leighton Buzzard w Eggington, Hockliffe and Billington (St Albans): to be Team Vicar, Dunstable with special responsibility for St Fremund the Martyr (same diocese).

The Rev Martin Coppen, Vicar, St Mary Bourne and Woodcott (Winchester): has also been appointed Rural Dean of Whitchurch (same diocese).

The Rev Bruce Curry, Priest-in-Charge, Abbotsley, and Waresley, and Everton w Tetworth (Ely): has been appointed also Priest-in-Charge, Great w Little Gransden, continuing as Priest-in-Charge, Abbotsley, and Waresley (same diocese).

The Rev Simon Foster, Priest-in-Charge, Darlington St Hilda and St Columba (Durham): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Margaret Joachim, formerly NSM, Ealing St Barnabas (London): has been appointed NSM, Ealing St Peter Mount Park (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Jones, Assistant Curate, Hartlepool St Aidan and St Columba, and Chaplain, Hartlepool General Hospital (Durham): to be Rector, Hendon St Ignatius (same diocese).

School news

Benenden School
Benenden School is pleased to announce the following Scholarship Awards:

Sixth Form Scholarships: Rowena Chiu (Academic), Woodford County High; Mihiri Gajraj (Academic), Tiffin Girls School.

Lower School Scholarships: Leonie Ashfield (Benenden School Trust Academic), Vinehall School; Sophie Brice (Leung Academic), Littlegarth School; Tania Hawkes (Barbara Findlay Academic), Cottesmore School; Heloise Mayou (Hemsted Academic), Kensington Preparatory School; Emily Miles (Hemsted Academic), Walthamstow Hall Junior School; Stephanie Norman (Founders' Music), St Michael's School, Jersey; Kirsty Perrin (Bird Academic), Rowan Preparatory School; Anna Pigott (Hilary Marshall Academic), Godstowe Preparatory School; Nicola Sherry (Clarke Academic), Bodiam Manor School; Amelia Sleat (Kentish Academic), Holmewood House School; Jessica Woolley (Hindle Music), Cathedral School, Salisbury; Alice Young (Hemsted Academic), St Ronan's School.

The following Internal Scholarships were awarded:

Upper School Scholarships: Isabel Clement (Academic), Mariana Corte-Real (Academic), Alexandra Schofield (Academic), Katie Chong (Art and Academic), Katie Fagg (Academic), Sarah Foley (Academic), Temitope Soleye (Academic), Emily Urry (Academic), Sophie Whitbread (Academic).

Sixth Form Honorary Academic Scholarships: Jayne Chng, Deborah Foong, Noelle Ho, Nicola Wood.

Design Technology Scholarship: Abigail Smart, Leonora Pearson.

Luncheons

Carlton Club Political Committee
Mr Peter Lilley, MP, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Carlton Club Political Committee held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Goswell, chairman of the committee, presided. Mr Lewis Moss also spoke.

Mid-Atlantic Club
Sir Colin Marshall, Chairman of British Airways, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Mid-Atlantic Club held yesterday at the English-Speaking Union. Mr Peter von Butler, Minister, German Embassy, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.C. Chittenden and Miss M-L.B. Lenzberg
The engagement is announced between Justin, son of the late Mr Jeremy Chittenden and of Mrs Chittenden, of Lytes Cary, Somerset, and Marie-Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Torben Lenzberg, of Vedbaek, Denmark.

Mr B.A. Finch and Miss D.E. McConn
The engagement is announced between Bruce Andrew Finch, of East Bergholt, Suffolk, and Dervla McConn, of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr S.G. Grace and Miss S. Eroğlu
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) and Mrs Barry Grace, of Richmond, Surrey, and Selda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hayrettin Eroğlu, of Izmir, Turkey.

Mr P.M. Jones and Miss T.E. Clark
The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Roger Jones, of Wherstead, Ipswich, and Tiffany, eldest twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Clark, of Badley, Ipswich.

Mr A.J. Kendrick and Miss H.L. Finnigan
The engagement is announced between Alec, eldest son of Mr John Kendrick, of Wickham Market, Suffolk, and Mrs Caroline Kendrick, of Gaborone, Botswana, and Hannah, second daughter of Dr and Mrs John Finnigan, of Long Preston, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.W.S. Lawrence and Miss S. Portas
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs C.W. Lawrence, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.J. Portas, of Normanby, Cleveland.

Captain I.S. Mortimer and Miss C.L. Provest
The engagement is announced between Captain Ian Mortimer, The Queen's Royal Hussars, son of Mr and Mrs Terence Mortimer, of Fylingthorpe, North Yorkshire, and Camilla, daughter of Captain and Mrs Anthony Provest, of Meonstoke, Hampshire.

Mr C.J. Stephenson and Miss G.J. Peck
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Stephenson, of Rye, Sussex, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mrs Peck and the late Mr Nigel Peck, of Putney, London.

Mr R.R.J. Wakeford and Miss N.K. Coke
The engagement is announced, from Johannesburg, between Roderick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wakeford, of Braunton, Devon, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Mr Henry Coke, of Brancaster, Norfolk, and Mrs Ian Boyd, of London, SW6.

Mr S.P. Worthington and Miss A.C. Hebeler
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Worthington, of Bentworth, Hampshire, and Arabella, daughter of Mr Roland Hebeler, of Spencer Park, London, and Mrs Peter Tawell, of Fulham, London.

Latest wills

Ellis Owen Cemlyn-Jones, of Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy, left estate valued at £2,140,858 net.

Professor Arnold Hugh William Beck, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £686,940 net.
He left £20,000 to University College London; £5,000 to Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk.

Ernest Jack Chester, company director, of London SW14, left estate valued at £1,421,374 net.
He left £250 to each of his employees at Avenue Engraving having completed a year's service; £250 to the Haymarket Lodge, c/o Freemasons Hall, London, WC2.

Mary Golden, of Northrepps, Cromer, Norfolk, left estate valued at £561,532 net.
She left £2,000 each to the John Golden Memorial Fund, Overstrand Rd Doctor's Surgery and Cromer Allies Ward; £1,000 to the Parish Church of Wood Norton, Norfolk.

Malcolm Lockley Meire, of Flint, left estate valued at £1,016,076 net.

Eynon David George Walters, solicitor, of Eryl Dinas Cross, Pembrokeshire, left estate valued at £978,337 net.
He left £300 to Tabor Baptist Church, Dinas; £100 to both the Church Hall, Dinas and the Parish Improvement Fund, Dinas.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I keep company with all who fear you, with all who follow your precepts. Lord, the earth is filled with your unfailing love; teach me your statutes. Psalm 119: 63,64

BIRTHS

BLACKMORE - On Sunday 22nd February 1998, to Alison (née Shropshire) and Peter, a son, William Thomas Jenkins, a brother for Harriet.

BRENNAN - See Reichwald.

BROWENDER - In New York on 24th March to Jennifer (née Cross) and Bruce, a son Simon Barry, a brother for Sarah and Nicholas.

COOMBS - On Monday March 16th 1998 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Natalie (née Dalcippo) and Christopher, a beautiful daughter, Laura Catherine.

DAVIS - On March 22nd 1998 to Nadra and Nicholas, a son, Lyle Silvan.

GILL - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Sharon and William Jr, a son, Nicholas Gerald, a brother for William III.

GOODMAN - On March 11th at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, to Sarah (née McTavish) and Robin, a son Felix James, a brother for Toby.

JACKSON - On 20th of March to Clare (née Symington) and Finn, a son, Rollo Alexander Shaw, a brother for Xanthe and Jacinta.

PRYOR - On March 21st at The Portland Hospital to Joanna (née Steele) and Justin, a son, Louis, a brother for Charlotte.

PUGH - On March 23rd 1998, to Anna (née Forsyth) and Jonathan, a daughter, Phoebe Anna, a sister for Thomas.

REICHWALD - On 23rd March to Ellen (née Brennan) and Peter, twins, Maximilian and Hannah.

ROSS - On March 20th at The Portland Hospital to Sarah and David, a son, Harry John Addison.

SAINT - On March 14th to Elspeth (née Cooke) and Nicholas, a daughter, Tamsin, a sister for Francis.

WILDMULLER - On March 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Hala (née Abou Rafeh) and Dennis, a daughter, Yasmina.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CARRINGTON - Pauline and Elizabeth wish to thank all friends and colleagues for their kind messages of sympathy, floral tributes, donations to Southmead Hospital and attendance at the funeral following the death of Nick, their devoted husband and father. The overwhelming support shown has been a great comfort at this time of deep sorrow. Our grateful thanks to Reverend Jonathan Cruikshank and all those who contributed to the beautiful funeral and Thanksgiving Service at Windsor Parish Church on Monday 16th March.

DEATHS

CHAPMAN - On March 23rd peacefully Kenneth of Butleigh Wootton, Somerset beloved husband of Margaret. Thanksgiving Sunday April 5th at 10.15 am. Meeting House Street Somerset. Donations for SHAWEF. Further enquiries Hollands 01458 840658.

CLAUSEN-THUE - After a long illness, patiently borne, peacefully at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey on 19th March, aged 81. Ronald William, dearly beloved husband of Ileana, and dearly loved father of Peter and David and grandfather of Philip and Victoria. Funeral service to be held at Randalls Park Crematorium, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey at 11.00am on Friday 3rd April. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to Parkinson's Disease Society c/o F.W. Chitty & Co., 26 Brassey House, New Zealand Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, KT12 1QD. Tel: 01932 254255.

COUPER - Joan Helen Campbell Honorary Alderman of Wycombe District Council aged 91. Daughter of the late John Duncan Campbell Couper CBE and Muriel Couper at home as she would have wished on 19th March. Much loved by her family and friends. Funeral at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ellesborough on Tuesday 31st March at 2.30 followed by private cremation. At her request family flowers only. No donations. Enquiries to K. Y. Green Funeral Directors. Tel: 01296 482041.

FERGUSON - Dr. Robin on March 23rd 1998, aged 84, a greatly loved Father and Grandfather. His family and friends are proud of his achievements, of all he did for others and of the way he bore his pain. Funeral at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Fifehead Magdalen at 2.30 pm. on Monday 30th March. Donations sent to Bracher Brothers Limited, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QL (tel 01747 822494) in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Cancer Research would be much appreciated.

FEYI-WABOSO - Martin. On 20th March 1998 aged 34 years, survived by wife Chinwe and daughter Georgia. Beloved by all his family. Funeral Service on Friday 27th March at 12.45 p.m. at St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Grange Park Road, Leyton, E10 followed by interment at Chingford Mount Cemetery.

GARNER - On 24th March 1998 peacefully Terence Ernest aged 77 years formerly of Lower Morden, Surrey. Dearly loved father of June and Wendy. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service on Wednesday 1st April at Leatherhead Crematorium at 11.20 a.m. Donations if desired for Cancer Research may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2SS.

GRIMLING - Daunton (Boo) died in hospital on 22nd March 1998 aged 81. The beloved wife of the late Robert (Bing). Loving mother of Julian Hutson and grandmother of Polly and Nicholas. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium 10.30 am. Friday 27th March. Enquiries Fredk. Paine 0181 994 0056.

HEATON - Mary Eileen. On 22nd March aged 86 peacefully at St George's N.H., Cobham. Beloved wife of the late Jack Wallace, much loved mother of the late Joan and of Michael, David and Patricia, loving grandmother of Richard, Annalie, Malcolm, Joanna, Jenny, Iona and Nicola. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Tuesday 31st March at 3 pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to R.S.P.B., Guide Dogs for the Blind or National Trust. Enquiries James & Thomas Ltd, F/D, (01932) 862009.

HILL - On March 24th, Norman Ernest Gordon Hill F.I.E.E. aged 88 years. Formerly of R.A.E. Farnborough. All enquiries to F.W. House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire. (01590 673142).

HOLMES - David, artist, lecturer and former Head Master, suddenly but peacefully on 22nd March at his home in Bosworth, Hampshire. Much loved by his wife Paddy, his sons, their families and all who knew him. Funeral Service to be held on Monday 30th March at Hayling Island United Reformed Church at 2.15 followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations payable to The Wessex Cancer Help Centre of which he was Chairman may be sent to Mr N.C. Hosier c/o J. Edwards & Son Funeral Directors, 13 St Georges Walk, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7TU.

JONES - Robert Frederick aged 83 years on 24th March 1998 of kidney failure. Loving husband of Marguerite and father of Timothy. Funeral Service in Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Place, Windsor on Monday 30th March at 2.45 pm followed by private interment. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to National Kidney Federation to E. Sargeant & Son, 41 St. Leonards Road, Windsor SL4 3BX.

JUCKES - June. On March 23rd 1998 peacefully in her sleep. Beloved wife of Adrian and mother of Franky, Carolyn and Angie, grandmother and great-grandmother. Will be lovingly remembered. Funeral Service at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham on Monday March 30th at 10.30 a.m. Enquiries c/o Arnold Funeral Service. Tel: 01494 472572.

LUFFMAN - Peacefully on Saturday 21st March 1998 at Hartismere Hospital, Eye, Suffolk, Donald Henry Frederick (Don) aged 77 years of St Marys Court, Diss, Norfolk, formerly of Merton Park and Fetcham, Surrey. Brother of Joan Teare, past President of The Old Rutlishians Association, Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and Vice President of the Diss Rugby Football Club, enthusiastic and generous supporter of Rugby, promoting many youth tours worldwide. Funeral Service at Putney Vale Crematorium, Roehampton on Thursday 2nd April at 12.00 noon. No flowers but donations to The Romanian Orphanage Trust may be sent c/o Beckhams Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk.

McCOSH - Anna Marshall. Suddenly in London on 23rd March 1998. Funeral Service 12 noon Tuesday 31st March at St Michael's Church, Chester Square, followed by cremation at Putney Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations if wished to The National Trust for Scotland (New Hailes Appeal). A Memorial Service will be held at Coulter, Lanarkshire on a date to be announced.

MERRITT - Dr. Kevin Lorne aged 39. Died 24th March after a long illness. Very much loved and sadly missed by his wife Louise and sons Charles and William. Funeral in Melbourne, Australia. Donations if desired to S.C.A.T., The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Stanmore, Middlesex.

MILLS - June Rosemary Jill (née Bowman) of Didsbury, Manchester, on Mothering Sunday, March 22nd 1998, aged 75, peacefully after a long illness endured with outstanding courage. Funeral Mass on Wednesday April 1st at 11.00 am at Holy Innocents Church, Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, Manchester 14. Burial at 4.00pm at the Parish Church of St Mary, Shrawley, Worcestershire. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if you wish, to the Botton Village Appeal Fund, c/o Jacqueline Gabbitas, Botton Village, Danby, Whitby, North Yorkshire. YO21 2NJ.

NELSON - Suddenly on Sunday March 22nd 1998 in hospital after many months of battling with cancer, James Kenneth, precious husband of Jean, wonderful father of Kate and Alastair, valued friend and father-in-law of Tony and Elizabeth, adoring Pa to Nancy, Alice, Iris and Eve and devoted brother. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving Friday 24th April 1998 at Finchcocks Museum, Goudhurst, Kent at 2 pm. Please no flowers. Donations if wished to Agricultural Benevolent Fund c/o Welham Jones, 156 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1DJ, tel: (01732) 742400.

PARKER - D. John peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends on 22nd March 1998. Funeral Tuesday 31st March at 12.00pm at St. Barnabas' Church, Calton Avenue, Dulwich SE21. Donations to St Christopher's Hospice 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, SE26 6DZ and R.N.L.I.

[illegible] - On 8th March, 1998, in hospital, Elizabeth of Worcester Court, 3, Worcester Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3JL, loved and loving wife of Edwin, mother of Janet and Alison, mother-in-law of John, and grandmother of Jonathan and Oliver. Private cremation has taken place. Donations, if desired, would be welcomed by Brunelcare (formerly Bristol Age Care), 3, Redcliffe Parade West, Bristol, BS1 6SH.

WORBOYS - On 24th March 1998, peacefully at home in the loving care of her nurses and after a courageous battle against debilitating illness for many years, Ethelwynne Bessie (Betty) aged 96 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Sir Walter Worboys, dear mother to Roger and Patricia (Gammell), sister of Joan Lodge. A proud grandmother and great-grandmother of many. Funeral at St John the Baptist, Busbridge, Godalming at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 1st April followed by cremation. Family flowers only please.

WORBOYS - Gillian on Monday 23rd March 1998. Much loved wife of Roger and adored mother of Melanie, Robin, Rosie, Thomas and Hattie. Devoted grandmother of Helena, Julian, Anthony, Lucas and Jasper. Taken from us all totally unexpectedly. Funeral at Our Lady of Pity and St Simon Stock, Hazlewell Road, Putney SW15 at 10 a.m. on Monday 30th March 1998 followed by burial at Putney Vale Cemetery.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

KESWICK - A Requiem Mass for Clare, Lady Keswick will be celebrated at Westminster Cathedral at 2.30 pm on Thursday April 30th.

MASON - A Memorial Service for Miss Joan Mason, founder of WISE, is to be held in London on 16th April 1998, the first anniversary of her death. Details from WISE (0171) 798-8224.

OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL BRIAN BRAYNE-NICHOLLS

Rear-Admiral Brian Brayne-Nicholls, CB, DSC, Chief of Staff, Far East Fleet, 1963-65, and General Secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society, 1966-79, died on March 4 aged 83. He was born on December 1, 1914.



After a distinguished naval career, Brian Brayne-Nicholls was for 13 years the General Secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society, a misleading title for an organisation that protects and promotes the pension interests of all ranks of the armed forces. He was assiduous and expert, and his effective lobbying contributed significantly to many improvements, the most notable of which were the introduction of annual index-linking and the increase of service widows' pensions from a third to a half of those of their husbands.

Especially concerned for widows, Brayne-Nicholls was delighted in the year of his retirement to see the introduction of pensions for the widows of soldiers, sailors and airmen who had left the services before 1950.

Brian Brayne-Nicholls first went to sea in 1932 as a cadet in the cruisers *Sussex* and *Leander*, and then in 1936 to the Far East in the gunboat *Bee*, flagship of the celebrated Yangtse Squadron. Frequently shot at by both sides, these gunboats protected British interests far up the Yangtse river during the fighting between the Japanese and the Chinese warlords. On one occasion, under fire, *Bee* recovered the survivors of the American gunboat *Panay*, sunk by a Japanese air attack.

Brayne-Nicholls qualified as a specialist navigator in 1939 and was appointed in succession to the battleships *Nelson* and *Rodney* as navigating officer. After a brief tour in the obsolescent light cruiser *Cardiff*, he took over as navigator of the fast minelayer *Manxman* in June 1941 at the height of the Mediterranean campaign. *Manxman*'s exceptional speed made her a useful asset in running supplies to besieged Malta, the first occasion being during Operation Substance with Admiral Sir James Somerville's powerful Force H in July 1941, at a time when Malta was causing acute anxiety to Admiral Cunningham, the Commander-in-Chief. Almost immediately afterwards *Manxman* made another dash from Gibraltar to Malta and back during the much more lightly escorted Operation Style.

But minelaying was *Manxman*'s primary role, operations which required meticulous navigation close to enemy-held coasts and high speed to get away from hostile land-based aircraft before dawn. Disguised as a large French destroyer, *Manxman* on one occasion laid 70 magnetic and 70 moored mines off the Italian port of Livorno. Other exploits included the laying and refreshing of mine barrages off Tunisian ports, aimed to interdict supplies for Rommel's Afrika Korps. In January 1942 *Manxman* was diverted to lay a minefield off Brest in the hope of catching the German battlecruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, which were holed up there. In May 1942 she took part in Britain's seizure of the Vichy French colony of Madagascar against the chance that it might fall into Japanese hands.

For his daring, skill and endurance in *Manxman*, Brayne-Nicholls was awarded the DSC. When *Manxman* was badly damaged by a torpedo from a U-boat in December 1942, he was appointed to *HMS Hamilcar*, the Combined Operations headquarters in the Mediterranean where he took part in the planning for the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and for which he was mentioned in dispatches. He continued in Combined Operations until late 1944, assisting with the invasion of Italy and the D-Day assault.

He sailed from Harland and Wolff's yard in Belfast for the Far East on VE Day as the navigating officer of the new light fleet carrier *Glory*. Later he was navigator of the battleship *Vanguard* and commanded two destroyers and the minelayer *Apollo*. Following a posting as Naval Assistant to the First Sea Lord, he went to Washington on the Nato Standing Group, where he was noted for creating excellent relations with his Alliance colleagues.

Tours in command of the Navy's navigation and aircraft direction school and as the director of seaman training in the Admiralty were followed in 1963 by promotion to rear-admiral and appointment to Singapore as the Chief of Staff to the Commander, Far East Fleet. Here he bore the brunt of the mobilisation and management of Britain's largest naval operational commitment east of Suez since the war, the confrontation with Indonesia as Britain backed the newly formed Federation of Malaysia against a campaign of subversion and infiltration by President Sukarno. This commitment, which came to a successful conclusion in August 1966, eventually involved over 50 warships, including half the Navy's aircraft carrier force, and required much ingenious "low-intensity warfare" innovation.

Brayne-Nicholls was appointed CB upon his retirement in October 1965. Besides his secretaryship of the Officers' Pensions Society, he was active in a number of charities and recently oversaw the final disbandment, owing to the age of its members, of the Yangtse River Association.

He married in 1939 Wendy Donnelly, who died in 1983. He is survived by his second wife Mimi, whom he married in 1986, and the daughter of his first marriage.

MIKLOS RAJNAI

Miklós Rajnai died on March 1 aged 72. He was born in Hungary on July 9, 1925.



MIKLÓS RAJNAI was a Magyar who loved English art. His life and work were marked by strong allegiances in both Hungary and England, and he became the foremost authority on the Norwich School of artists and a consultant in British art for Sotheby's.

A meteoric career in Hungary was cut short by the Hungarian Uprising in 1956, but during the forty years he lived in England, Rajnai won an exceptional reputation for one of England's undervalued regional collections, Norwich Castle Museum. Through his exemplary integrity and scholarship, and his connections in the museum and academic fields and with auction houses and private collections, he also gave those who worked with him a rare apprenticeship, which equipped them to rise to leading positions.

The son of a prison governor, Miklós Rajnai was born in Sátoraljaújhely, a remote town in the east of Hungary, and studied law and then philosophy, art and literature at the University of Budapest. After a year at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, he was appointed keeper of art in Szeged, southern Hungary, before returning to Budapest to pursue research at the Institute of Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 1953 he published monographs on Geza Meszoly and Szinyei Merse, the Hungarian Manet. In 1954, at the age of 29, he was appointed head of the Gallery of Hungarian Art, where he was responsible for the state's acquisition of 19th-century and contemporary art for Budapest and for the municipal galleries.

He was one of three people charged in 1956 with organising the Hungarian stand at the World Exhibition in Brussels; but after the November 1956 uprising he and his wife Maria left Hungary for an Austrian refugee camp. In 1957 they reached England and were sent to Birmingham where, speaking no English, Rajnai worked in a motorcycle factory. After another dismal spell, as a kitchen clerk at a London hotel, he was appointed Keeper of Strangers' Hall, a period house in Norwich.

This was a remarkably shrewd and farsighted decision by the Norwich museums' committee. Two years later, Rajnai became keeper of art and deputy director at the Norwich Castle Museum. In 1968 the Paul Mellon Foundation offered him a research grant to work on the Norwich School, whose major figures, Crome and Cotman, he regarded as being as great as any national art of the period. His extensive research, in America, Canada and France, did not result in the three definitive volumes he had envisaged, but enabled him to publish the Norwich collection of John Sell Cotman and a significant analysis of the membership and patronage of the early Norwich Society of Artists. He was later curator of the Cotman bicentenary exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

In 1979 he resigned from the Norwich Castle Museum, disenchanted by the running down of funds and by falling standards. He was invited by Andrew Festing to join his department at Sotheby's as a consultant on British art, a post he took up after an intensive six-week study tour of major regional collections in England and Scotland. As well as this trip, by camper van, he organised many others to European cities for friends interested in art history. Together they cheerfully endured youth hostels and long days looking at art in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Hamburg, Munich and Vienna. Friends also joined him in Turkey, Greece and Egypt.

His love of travel also included regular holidays to the sun, in particular to the nudist islands of the former Yugoslavia. This always surprised people, as did the number of devoted women in his life. Hardly athletic in appearance, the young Rajnai was an expert fencer and could until recently beat companions to the top of a Greek amphitheatre or mountain.

Miklós Rajnai had a deceptively quiet manner and warm sense of humour which often caught people off balance. He inspired loyalty and great affection from friends and colleagues. He was at home in the country houses of Norfolk: Raveningham, Felbrigg, Hoveton and above all at Dilham, where his friends Michael and Bridget Riviere enabled him to work.

At the time of his death, he and Diana Brooks were completing a catalogue raisonné of the 17th-century Hungarian still life and bird painter Jacob Bogdani, in the course of which he had become, in his meticulous way, an expert on exotic birds. It was entirely in character that he should take a life-threatening visit to Hungary a few weeks before he died. Although he did not finish his work, or his travels, he felt success in the exceptional friendships he had enjoyed in two very different countries.

He married twice, but both marriages were dissolved. He had no children.

DAVID KING

David King, actor, died of peritonitis on March 4 aged 67. He was born on August 23, 1930.



DAVID KING was a big man who, in his acting, paid deft attention to the tiniest details. From his early work alongside Sir Michael Redgrave and Dame Peggy Ashcroft with the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1950s to his appearance with Sir John Gielgud in the award-winning film *Shine*, he distinguished himself as a thoughtful actor, whose lack of self-absorption won him the respect of his peers.

King was born in Rochester, where he attended the King's School before going up to King's College, Cambridge, where he read English and music and began seriously to indulge his passion for acting.

He went on to work extensively in film and television, but his first love was always the stage, where his substantial, ursine physical presence was matched by a resonant voice and a range that enabled him to tackle great classical roles such as Lear at the Ludlow Festival and Claudius to the Hamlets of Peter O'Toole and Richard Chamberlain, as well as numerous character parts.

His many appearances in London included *The Apple Cart*, again with O'Toole, John Osborne's *A Patriot For Me* with Alan Bates, and Ian McDiarmid's production of Wedekind's *Lulu* plays. In the last, at the Almeida, he played opposite Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, who was one of the first of a long line of screen luminaries to appear in recent years at that fashionable Islington theatre. Amid intense press interest in how she would cope with the run, she and King developed what those involved in the production described as a tremendous rapport. She said that his support left her completely at ease in their scenes together.

His experience and intellect, particularly in his clear and insightful reading of texts, ensured that he commanded similar respect from veterans. But it was perhaps his mischievous sense of humour that endeared him most to Sir John Gielgud and ensured that their scenes together in *Shine*, as two fruity music teachers, were such a success.

A rare gift was his ability to work with animals — specifically, his own beasts. A succession of his mongrel dogs appeared with him on stage and sometimes on television — the first, Dougal, acquitting himself admirably and gaining a reputation as a reliable critic with a canny knack of leaving the room or barking sternly when lesser talents were clearly struggling to deliver. Dougal's successor, Brock, was more savage and undiscriminating in his attacks, and gained notoriety in theatres across the land for physical assaults on actors, particularly during quick costume changes. He once consumed much of an oak dressing room door when left unattended during a performance at the Round House in Camden.

King was a published poet — his *I Hate Greens* is a favourite of children's anthologies; he read his own and others' work throughout the country, gave numerous piano recitals and staged a series of performance lectures at the National Portrait Gallery on musicians and writers such as Handel and G. K. Chesterton. Latterly his rich voice became familiar to radio listeners through a stint with the BBC Radio repertory company, and he recorded hundreds of books for the blind through the charity Calibre.

He was passionate about nurturing young talent, both through his work with Anna Scher at her North London theatre school, and through a series of school Shakespeare workshops run by the New Shakespeare Company. For many years he delighted children and adults as Badger in the West End production of *Toad of Toad Hall*. He lived alone and in his last years he appeared to grow more and more like his stage badger, straying less often from his local territory where, dog at side, he was a well known character. When the cortege left his Islington "sett", local people lined the streets to see him off.

PETER DUGDALE

Peter Dugdale, CBE, former managing director of Guardian Royal Exchange, died on March 9 aged 70. He was born on February 12, 1928.



IN A career in insurance that took him from the Far East, where he was born, to the City of London, Peter Dugdale will be remembered as managing director of Guardian Royal Exchange, a post he held from 1978 to 1990. His stewardship of GRE saw that company become a truly multinational concern, and the fact that it survives today as the sole remaining unmarried composite insurer is a tribute to the foundations he laid. Dugdale served twice as chairman of the Association of British Insurers.

Peter Robin Dugdale was born in Johore Bahru, Malaya, the son of a doctor specialising in the treatment of tropical diseases. Like so many children of his time, he was sent to boarding school in England. But by the time he arrived, in 1941, at Canford School, a relatively new establishment housed in neo-gothic buildings set in several hundred acres of Dorset parkland, his father had already been interned by the Japanese following the fall of Singpore.

Thus it was that Canford became both his home and family, to which he was eventually to return. He developed a strong sense of independence, often cycling to stay with cousins in the Midlands; on one occasion he spent an uncomfortable night in a ditch outside Coventry while the Luftwaffe raided the cities of the Midlands. He also spent illicit hours drinking beer with an American airborne division bivouacked on a distant playing field, only to find, one morning, all traces of it had disappeared; it was June 5, 1944.

After three years at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read PPE, canoed beneath Oxford through the sewers and nearly disembowelled himself on a spike on the walls surrounding Somerville, he was employed by the Union Insurance Society of Canton.

His progression, as a result of a series of mergers and takeovers, from the Union of Canton to the City of London owed more to his man management skills than to any particular area of expertise, although marine underwriting was his first love. But when he was appointed CBE in 1987, it was as much for the work he had done for Boys Brigades, the Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Salisbury Cathedral Spire Appeal as for his services to industry.

He became executive chairman of Trade Indemnity on his retirement from GRE and piloted that company through the most difficult years of its existence in the aftermath of a credit-fuelled recession. In final retirement from 1993 onwards he became national treasurer of Guide Dogs for the Blind and, completing his life's circle, chairman of the governors of Canford School. There, he found himself running the fund-raising committee at the time that the school discovered that it had an original Assyrian frieze hanging in its tuck shop, subsequently sold at auction for £7.5 million. The theatre currently being built with part of the proceeds from this windfall stands as a tribute to him.

Peter Dugdale is survived by his wife and three sons.

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THE LOSS OF THE EURYDICE

The wreck of the Eurydice, the training ship for young ordinary seamen, off the Isle of Wight and almost within sight of Spithead, for which place she was standing, at the end of a pleasant and successful cruise to the West Indies, is a disaster which calls vividly to mind the loss of the Captain off Cape Finisterre ... The circumstances are similar in many respects, both ships having turned over and sunk during the gale of wind, all their sail being at the time set. So far as can be ascertained, the Eurydice had 368 souls on board at the time, though this is very much a matter of conjecture, as she was bringing home a number of military officers, supernumeraries and invalids from the West Indies. The Eurydice was a wooden sailing, fully-rigged ship of 921 tons displacement, at one time considered one of the smartest and quickest 26-gun frigates in the service.

The Eurydice left Bermuda on the 6th inst., and nothing was heard of her until she was seen by the coastguard at Bonchurch at 3.30 on Sunday afternoon, bearing for Spithead under all plain sail and with her port stunsails set on the foretopmast and maintopmast, the object being clearly to arrive at the anchorage at Spithead before nightfall. A heavy bank of clouds was coming down from the north-west and the glass was falling rapidly. Such wind as there was came from the westward and blew on the port quarter of the ship. The Isle of Wight is of peculiar formation on its southern fringe, having what may be considered as a double-coast line extending from Blackgang Chine as far as Shanklin. The inner circle of the Downs reaches a height of 500 feet above the sea, and affords a deceptive shelter to ships well ashore. From the direction in which the Eurydice was steering she would be in comparatively smooth water, so sheltered would she be by the Downs, until she rounded Dunnose Head where the disaster occurred. This circumstance will also serve to explain the fact that the Emma, schooner, which was near at the time, was not affected by the gale. At ten minutes to four the wind suddenly veered round from the west to the eastward and a gale, accompanied by a blinding fall of snow, came rushing from the high lands down Luccombe Chine, striking the Eurydice just a little before the beam, driving her out of her course, which was heading to the north-east, and turning her bows to the east. This is what seems probable, though, from the manner in which the sea was concealed by the snow, nothing was seen of her at the supreme moment when she capsized to starboard. The air cleared as suddenly as it became overcast, the wind sinking away at the same time. As soon as anything could be seen, the masts and top hamper of the ship were discerned above the water about 2-3/4 miles E.N.E. off Dunnose, a well-known and lofty landmark between Shanklin and Ventnor. The ship lies in 11 fathoms of water and from her position she appears to have righted in going down. Of the whole number of souls on board, only two persons, as already reported, succeeded in reaching the shore alive.

ON THIS DAY

March 26, 1878

Only two members of the ship's complement of 368 were rescued when the training ship Eurydice sank off Spithead at the end of a cruise to the West Indies

هكذا من الأصل

NEWS

Sweeping powers for £3bn mayor

■ London's elected mayor is to have sweeping powers over transport, economic development, the police and fire services and command a budget of more than £3 billion under radical changes in the government of the capital.

As John Prescott announced the unexpectedly wide-ranging proposals in advance of a referendum on May 7, the race to run London got under way with Ken Livingstone, the former GLC leader, throwing his hat into the ring and government forces vowing to crush his attempt .....Page 1

Budget pays for Labour's standing

■ The Budget has been welcomed by the public and bolstered Labour's big lead over the Tories, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. Support for Labour has hardened to 53 per cent, up a point since late February .....Page 1

Asylum scandal

The Times has found asylum seekers whose accounts support claims that Belgian officials dump unwanted immigrants on Eurostar trains bound for London .....Pages 1, 6

Welfare contract

Tony Blair will today outline a "new welfare contract" which will require most people to pay more for their pensions and social care, leaving the state to provide only for neediest .....Page 2

Student's 'kidnap'

A student engaged her kidnapper in conversation after he forced her on an 11-hour journey at knifepoint, a jury was told at the trial of a man accused of killing a judge's daughter .....Page 3

Exeter arrest

Detectives seeking the killer of the Exeter schoolgirl Kate Bushell arrested a local man aged 20. Kate, 14, was stabbed while walking a neighbour's dog .....Page 3

Papal politics

The Vatican's Cardinal Angelo Sodano, 70, raised his profile as a potential successor to the Pope by urghing reform under a strong papacy .....Page 18

School nightmare

Blood has been hosed off the pavements but much more will be needed for an Arkansas country town to erase the memory of school shootings .....Page 17

Behaving badly

"New lad" culture is blamed for increased smoking and drinking. Young men have caused the first significant rise in heavy drinking since surveys of national life started in 1984 .....Page 14

Habitats protected

Water companies that drain rivers and fens will lose their abstraction licences. The decision by Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, follows fears for important habitats .....Page 8

Military equality

Nearly 500 senior officers in the Armed Services are to be instructed in race relations to help to give blacks and Asians fair chances of promotion .....Page 13

Mother's despair

Stephen Lawrence's mother told a judicial enquiry that when she handed a senior police officer a piece of paper bearing the names of her son's suspected killers, he crumpled it up .....Page 5

Shame over Rwanda

President Clinton met survivors of Rwanda's 1994 genocide and in a moving speech admitted that the world had not responded quickly enough .....Page 19

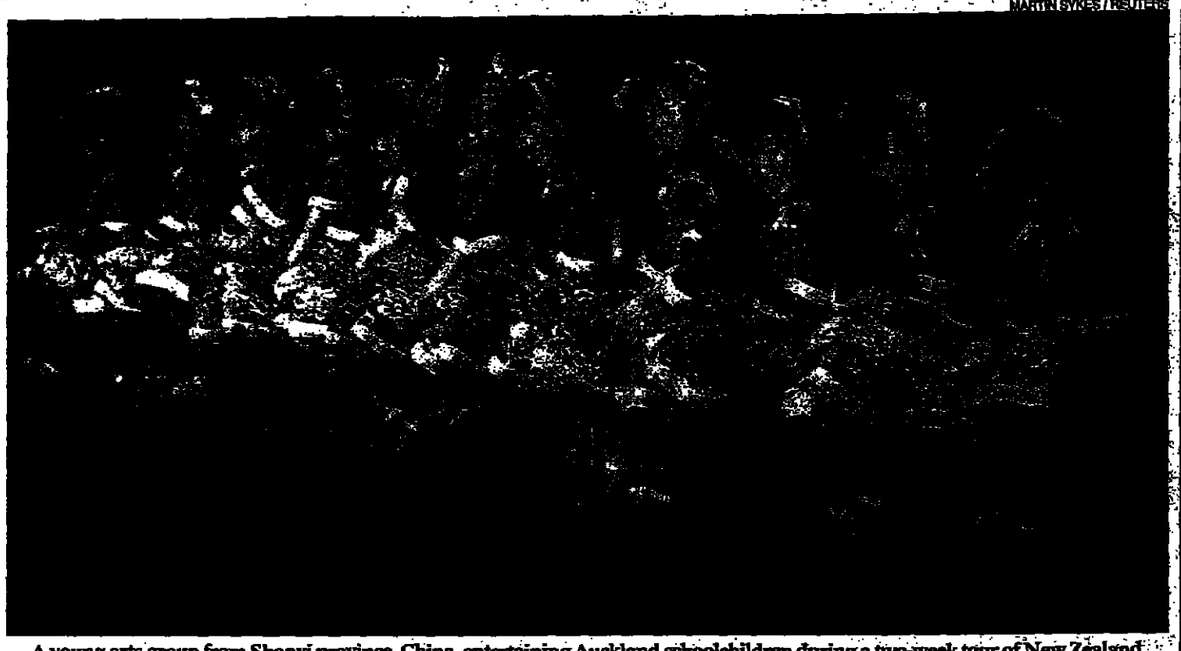
Riot of rickshaws

The Bangladeshi capital is being brought to a standstill by 390,000 cycle rickshaws, most of them sporting elaborate decorations and fake licences .....Page 16

William's romantic Rockies role

■ After the Three Tenors, the Three Princes. The Prince of Wales and his sons were resting at a Rockies ski resort after an unexpectedly rapturous reception from young Canadians. The undisputed star of the trio has been Prince William, who over the past two days has emerged as a teenage heartthrob to rival *Titanic*'s Leonardo DiCaprio .....Page 1

MARTIN SYKES / REUTERS



A young arts group from Shanxi province, China, entertaining Auckland schoolchildren during a two-week tour of New Zealand

BUSINESS

Vickers: Shares in Vickers rose amid indications that five contenders are in the running for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the luxury carmaker .....Page 27

Insurance: The multibillion pound offshore insurance industry is preparing a legal challenge to the Government's clampdown on tax avoidance .....Page 27

Utilities: Privatised utilities could be forced to share "unearned benefits" with customers under plans for regulation changes .....Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 15.9 points to close at 5967.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 107.8 to 107.7 after a rise from $1.6750 to $1.6763 but a fall from DM3.0647 to DM3.0623 .. Page 30

Football: Vinnie Jones became the last member of the original Crazy Gang to leave Wimbledon, joining Queens Park Rangers as player-coach for £500,000 .....Page 48

Cricket: Much of England's tour of the West Indies offered the firm impression that their cricket had more pattern and purpose than for some years .....Page 46

Rugby union: Tim Rodber, the Northampton captain, has been ruled out for the rest of the season by a knee ligament injury. He will also miss England's summer tour .....Page 49

Racing: Tony McCoy beat the record of 221 wins in a National Hunt season, set nine years ago by Peter Scudamore, with victory on Petite Risk at Ludlow .....Page 47

Hoskins's hopes: Bob Hoskins talks about his new movie, set in a Nottingham urban wasteland, and his hopes for a working-class cultural renaissance under new Labour .....Page 36

Disney rival: Geoff Brown reviews the new films, including *Anastasia*, Twentieth Century Fox's attempt to break the Disney hold on the cartoon market .....Page 37

Rakes' progress: Caroline Quentin recovers from her injury to open in the National Theatre revival of Ravenscroft's Restoration comedy, *The London Cuckolds* .....Page 38

Paper drain: Britain's finest living poets, playwrights and novelists are selling their manuscripts and papers to American libraries at an alarming rate .....Page 39

Trouble brewing: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on why too much Earl Grey can stain the skin; an Arctic trek giving hope to depressives; first aid for a nosebleed .....Page 20

Fame and misfortune: "No parent, no matter how wealthy or powerful, can ensure that their children's lives turn out as they would like." Grace Bradberry on Dustin Hoffman's adopted daughter .....Page 21

Killing fields: In Colombia bloodshed is nothing new, but there has been an upsurge in atrocities by paramilitaries and rebels .....Page 21

Young Turks: Lawrence James recalls the glories of the Ottoman Empire; reviews by Claire Messud, Michael Hoffman, Diana Mosley and Susan Greenfield Pages 40, 41

Festival time: Take part in England's oldest annual festival celebrating St George; a week's self-catering in Rhodes for £169; Perth for less than £500 return, with a Singapore stopover .....Page 43

The great sin of slavery can never be forgotten. As for Clinton apologising for US involvement, this will not happen and we should not get agitated about it. Practical and generous action to build our new democracies would be more to the point. *The East African*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ POP
David Sinclair reviews *This is Hardcore*, Pulp's long-awaited follow-up to *Different Class*

■ MEDIA
At 24, Radio 1's Chris Moyles bursts with irreverence. The new Chris Evans?

Preview: Premature babies can survive at 23 weeks, but what are the risks? *Horizon* (BBC2, 9.30pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph on rich New Yorkers giving their money away .....Pages 50, 51

Mayor or mouse

The initial incumbent will be a figure of exceptional importance, destined to be London's George Washington .....Page 23

Awkward squad

The economies from winding down the Territorial Army are real, but the difficulties in reviving a valuable arm of our defence once lost are no less real .....Page 23

Together in tragedy

The President has often spoken wistfully of his own hometown of Hope, Arkansas has now, sadly, felt fear, but will do little about it .....Page 23

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Proportional representation gave us Hitler and has proved tailor-made for M Le Pen. The European Union would not survive a fascist government in a major country .....Page 22

PATRICIA HEWITT

Step by step, we need to make Britain's welfare state better. I'm confident that when today's Green Paper has begun that process, we will .....Page 22

RALPH HARRIS

We have witnessed the pauperisation of a prosperous yet improvident people who once took pride in paying their way .....Page 22

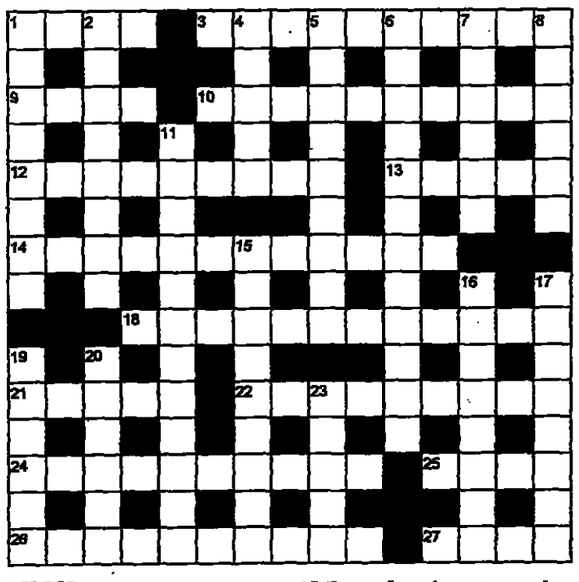
JOHN BRYANT

In the event of emergency, fire the man at the top. That seems to be the chilling message this week for sporting leadership .....Page 49

Rear-Admiral Brian Brayne-Nicholls, Chief-of-Staff, Far East Fleet, 1963-65; **David King**, actor; **Peter Dugdale**, former managing director of Guardian Royal Exchange .....Page 25

Millennium site clean-up; zoos and conservation; Labour deserts Blackpool; Aitken defence; leaders in Africa; hereditary peeresses; Major and Trollope .....Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,749



ACROSS

1 Return of Verdi's opera incomplete without very great singer (4).
3 Special offer with cost finally reduced? That's natural (10).
9 Depression in the land so long (4).
10 Criminal came and left in disguise (10).
12 Washerwoman needs to use soft soap, putting in cape (9).
13 Stout is to be served inside (5).
14 Seat for parlourmaid? (7,5).
18 A pedlar, so we hear, is never taking it so easy on the road (12).
21 Mocking religious leader leaving this order (5).
22 One reckons new university projection's 100 short (9).
24 Terminate old arrangement? It depends on the strings attached (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20748

J	U	M	P	E	D	U	P	■	P	A	S	T	R	Y
■	S	■	R	■	R	■	E	■	C	■	E	■	■	■
M	E	D	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	■	R	O	L	E
■	S	■	E	■	G	■	C	■	K	■	I	■	E	■
■	■	■	S	H	O	C	K	I	N	G	P	I	N	K
I	■	T	■	N	■	U	■	J	■	■	■	T	■	■
O	N	C	E	■	■	P	U	F	F	B	A	L	L	■
■	T	■	S	■	D	■	E	■	O	■	E	■	■	■
T	H	E	S	P	I	A	N	■	■	■	B	U	S	Y
■	E	■	■	S	■	E	■	P	■	S	■	■	■	■
A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S	H	E	E	L	■	■	■
■	L	■	D	■	O	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	M	■
D	E	N	Y	■	D	R	A	I	N	P	I	P	E	S
■	A	■	L	■	G	■	R	■	O	■	A	■	■	■
G	R	I	L	S	E	■	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E

DOWN

1 Swoop down on honky-tonk with a lot of money (4-4).
2 Changing a lot, and not particularly nice about it? (8).
4 Money is stolen from a saint (5).
5 Toss up on part of square (9).
6 Way to deal with sin etc. (12).
7 Detective has to have permit for peephole (6).
8 One whose charges are small for easy task (6).
11 IOUs, possibly, for such gems? (4-8).
15 Open spaces standard for martial art (5,4).
16 Birds from the freezing poles (8).
17 A piece of armour said to inflict injury (8).
19 Blurred shot (6).
20 Finish off sauce on prawn cocktail — cover all over (6).
23 Transport system Parisians look down on? (5).
25 Exempt from charge to cross river (4).
26 Evidence provided that's getting rid of monarch (10).
27 Part of cathedral, say — such as Ely? (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.50 am — Sun sets: 6.23 pm
Moon sets 4.19 pm — Moon rises 5.10 am

New moon March 28
London 6.23 pm to 5.48 am
Bristol 6.33 pm to 5.58 am
Edinburgh 6.38 pm to 5.57 am
Manchester 6.33 pm to 5.55 am
Penzance 6.44 pm to 6.10 am

TODAY'S WEATHER

General: England and Wales will start overcast and quite windy, with rain in many places. Northern and western areas will become drier and brighter. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a blustery day.
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: rain soon giving way to sunny spells. Wind fresh to strong, southwest. Max 13C (55F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain then sunny spells and showers. Wind fresh to strong, southwest. Max 12C (54F).
London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England: overcast and misty with rain. Wind moderate to fresh, southwest. Max 15C (59F).
E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, SW England: rain then sunny spells. Wind moderate to fresh, southwest. Max 14C (57F).
Channel Isles: overcast with fog and drizzle. Wind fresh, southwest. Max 13C (55F).
S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England: rain clearing to leave sunny spells. Wind moderate to fresh, southwest. Max 14C (57F).
N Ireland: rain soon clearing, then sunny spells and isolated showers. Wind fresh, southwest. Max 13C (55F).
Republic of Ireland: heavy rain becoming light and patchy. Wind moderate, southwest. Max 13C (55F).
Outlook: remaining unsettled in central and northern areas. The South will become mostly dry and very mild.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Kinloss	0.4	0.01	13	55	r
Anglesey	1.7	0.61	11	52	d	Leeds	-	0.24	11	52	r
Aspatria	2.1	0.03	12	54	d	Lerwick	3.0	0.01	9	48	b
Aviemore	2.4	0.03	11	52	b	Leuchars	-	-	12	54	c
Belfast	-	0.17	12	54	r	London	-	0.12	9	48	r
Birmingham	-	0.40	8	46	r	Lowestoft	-	0.01	9	48	d
Bognor R	-	0.14	8	48	r	Manchester	-	0.33	10	50	r
Bournem'th	-	0.28	9	48	r	Margate	0.4	-	10	50	du
Bristol	-	0.24	11	52	r	Minehead	-	0.39	12	54	sh
Buxton	-	0.54	7	45	du	Morecambe	-	0.35	11	52	r
Cardiff	X	0.29	11	52	d	Newcastle	1.4	0.02	12	54	sh
Cleethorpes	-	0.08	10	50	c	Norwich	-	0.02	7	45	r
Colwyn Bay	2.6	0.27	14	57	b	Oxford	-	0.20	948		
Cromer	-	0.07	7	45	d	Penzance	X	0.22	12	54	sh
Eastbourne	-	0.03	8	46	d	Poole	-	0.27	9	48	r
Edinburgh	X					Ross on Wye	X	0.38	10	50	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.03	9	48	d	Salcombe	-	0.64	11	52	r
Exmouth	-	0.46	11	52	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.54	10	50	r
Falmouth	-	0.16	11	52	d	Scarboro'	-	0.11	9	48	r
Fishguard	0.4	0.41	12	54	d	Sleaness	-	0.17	9	48	r
Folkestone	1.1	-	9	48	c	Southend	-	0.02	8	46	du
Glasgow	-	0.03	11	52	r	Southport	X	0.48	11	52	d
Guernsey	-	0.13	10	50	d	Southsea	-	0.26	8	46	r
Hastings	-	0.01	9	48	sh	Stornoway	-	0.01	10	50	r
Hayling I.	-	0.23	8	46	r	Swanage	-	0.29	9	48	r
Hove	-	0.05	7	45	d	Tenby	-	0.68	12	54	d
Hunstanton	-	0.18	8	46	r	Tiree	0.2	0.06	11	52	d
Isle of Man	-	0.36	11	52	c	Torquay	-	0.26	12	54	r
Isle of Wight	-	0.31	7	45	r	Tynemouth	-	-	12	54	r
Jersey	-	0.11	8	46	r	Weymouth	-	0.32	9	48	r

EUROPE

Ajaccio	12	54	f	Cologne	8	46	c	Madrid	17	63	s
Alcudia	15	59	s	Corfu	11	52	f	Majorca	16	61	c
Alex'dria	16	61	f	C'phagn	5	41	s	Malaga	19	66	f
Algiers	15	59	r	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	14	57	c
Amst'dm	7	45	s	Dubrovnik	8	46	f	Mally'me	17	63	s
Athens	11	52	f	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	23	73	s
B Aires	21	70	f	Florence	8	43	f	Miami	24	75	s
Bahrain	29	84	f	Frankfurt	8	46	s	Milan	9	48	f
Bangkok	35	95	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Montreal	0	32	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	4	39	c	Moscow	2	36	s
Barcelona	13	55	c	Gibraltar	19	66	s	Munich	4	39	s
Beijing	15	59	s	Helsinki	3	37	s	N Delhi	28	79	s
Beirut	14	57	f	Hong K	22	72	f	N York	8	46	s
Belgrade	7	45	s	Innsbruck	3	37	s	Nairobi	X		
Berlin	5	41	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Naples	7	45	r
Bermuda	18	64	r	Jeddah	27	81	f	Nice	14	57	s
Biarritz	12	54	s	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Oslo	5	41	f
Borde'x	11	52	s	L Angels	17	63	s	Paris	7	45	s
Brussels	6	43	s	L Palmes	23	73	f	Perth	27	81	s
Budapst	6	43	f	Le Touet	7	45	s	Prague	4	39	x
Cairo	17	63	c	Lisbon	20	68	s	Reykjavik	-4	25	sn
Capa Tn	22	72	f	Locarno	7	45	s	Rhodes	11	52	s
Ch'church	33	91	X	Luxmbg	6	43	s	Rio de J	31	88	f
Chicago	9	48	s	Luxor	24	75	s	Riyadh	29	84	s
								Rome	8	43	f
								S Fr'isco	16	61	s
								S Paulo	X		
								Salzburg	4	39	s
								Santiago	30	86	s
								Seoul	11	52	f
								Sing'por	34	93	f
								Stckhlm	5	41	f
								Strasb'rg	6	43	s
								Sydney	24	75	s
								Tangier	22	72	s
								Tel Aviv	15	59	r
								Tenerife	23	73	f
								Tokyo	13	55	s
								Toronto	3	37	s
								Tunis	18	64	f
								Valencia	20	66	s
								Vanc'ver	11	52	c
								Venice	9	48	s
								Vienna	5	41	s
								Warsaw	3	37	c
								Wash'ton	X		
								Wel'gton	19	66	X
								Zurich	1	34	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low A will continue to drift south slowly; low K will move north and merge with low B



TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11:52	4.1			Liverpool	9:47	9.2	10:08	9.3
Avonmouth	5:33	12.9	6:02	13.1	London Bridge			12:30	7.0
Belfast	9:24	3.3	9:57	3.3	Lowestoft	8:09	2.3	8:05	2.4
Cardiff	5:19	11.9	5:48	12.2	Margate	10:36	4.6	10:46	4.7
Devonport	4:02	5.2	4:34	5.2	Milford Haven	4:36	6.5	5:03	6.5
Dover	9:28	6.4	9:51	6.6	Newquay	3:30	5.8	3:58	6.1
Dublin	10:00	4.0	10:36	4.1	Oban	4:26	3.8	4:51	3.7
Falmouth	3:33	5.0	4:05	5.0	Penzance	2:58	5.3	3:24	5.3
Greenock	11:12	3.8	11:30	3.2	Portland	5:11	1.8	5:49	1.8
Harwich	10:24	3.8	10:43	3.7	Portsmouth	5:49	5.5	10:18	4.7
Holyhead	5:48	5.5	6:18	5.5	Sheerness	9:28	5.9	10:04	6.3
Hull (Albert D)	4:48	8.2	4:59	8.4	Shoreham	9:28	4.4	9:41	4.6
Ilfracombe	4:24	8.8	4:50	9.0	Southampton	9:12	4.4	9:41	4.6
King's Lynn	4:56	6.2	5:04	6.6	Swansea	4:44	9.2	5:12	9.4
Leith	0:56	5.2	1:12	5.3	Tees	2:06	5.2	2:18	5.5
					Walton-On-Naze	10:17	4.1	10:35	4.0

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, North Wales, 14C (57F); lowest day max: High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, 0.75in; highest sunshine: Lerwick, Shetland Islands, 8.0hr.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft · THURSDAY MARCH 26 1998

Utilities may have to share out windfall profits

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRIVATISED utilities may be forced to share "unearned benefits" with customers under government plans to shake up regulation.

Prompt shareouts of extra profits by water, gas, electricity and telecommunication companies could be triggered if they benefit from a sudden drop in the price of resources or if they had misled regulators in information for pricing reviews. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced the proposal in a Green Paper on utility regulation. Also planned is a merger of the electricity and gas regulators and a duty on regulators to protect customer interests. The Government aims to make the regulatory process more accountable and transparent.

The proposed changes follow heavy criticism of utility regulation as privatised companies have delivered strong profits, high shareholder payouts and big rises in pay for directors. Mrs Beckett said: "For too long, householders who pay the gas, electricity, water and phone bills have felt that shareholders' interests have come first."

A mechanism to share out unearned benefits by utilities has yet to be devised. The Government will keep RPI-X, the inflation-linked price control formula, but is likely to establish an "error correction" when regulators feel a problem needs sorting out between the price reviews that are implemented every five years. Mrs Beckett denied the move would plunge companies into uncertainty or would disincentivise them. She said she hoped the corrections need not be used and that the threat of them would spur companies on to share benefits with customers.

But the move on unearned benefits, was attacked by John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade. He said: "After the windfall tax, we now have her proposed error correction mechanism which would leave her free to dip into the investment monies of these businesses."

The Government also intends that the distribution and supply sides of electricity companies should be allowed to separate. This may trigger a wave of consolidation in the industry as companies seek to pool distribution and supply operations. But Mrs Beckett would not be drawn on whether PowerGen would now be allowed to buy half or all of a regional company. The generator wants to be vertically integrated — producing electricity and also taking it to the customer.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5967.8	(–15.9)
Yield	2.72%	
FTSE All share	2795.85	(–3.00)
Nikkei	16658.34	(+51.95)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8930.59 (+26.16)*	
S&P Composite	1110.54 (+4.89)*	

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	102²⁸₃₂*	(103¹/₁₆)
Yield	5.92%*	(5.88%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7¹⁵/₁₆%	(7¹⁵/₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	108¹₄	(108¹₄)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6745*	(1.6750)
London:		
$	1.6763	(1.6757)
DM	3.0619	(3.0656)
FFr	10.2620	(10.2715)
SFr	2.5027	(2.4990)
Yen	216.12	(218.43)
£ index	107.7	(107.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8282*	(1.8279)
FFr	6.1265*	(6.1260)
SFr	1.4940*	(1.4803)
Yen	128.90*	(130.27)
$ index	108.9	(109.5)

Tokyo close Yen 129.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun) $15.05 ($14.80)

GOLD

London close $299.55 ($301.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Brown's offshore tax curbs face legal challenge

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE multi-billion pound offshore insurance industry is preparing to mount a legal challenge against the Government's plans to clamp down on tax avoidance.

Offshore insurers are angry over a Budget proposal which, they claim, will force them to break client confidentiality by obliging them to inform the Inland Revenue when UK residents sell their investments. They say the requirement breaks the Treaty of Rome and infringes the European Second Life Directive.

The Association of International Life Offices (Ailo), which represents 35 companies with more than £10 billion of funds under management, has taken legal advice and is lobbying Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. It has threatened to take the Government to the European Court if the Finance Bill is not amended.

Under the Budget proposal, offshore life offices will have to set up fiscal representatives who will send to the Revenue "chargeable event certificates" when UK expatriates and residents cash in their insurance policies.

Other European countries require fiscal representatives but only for the collection of insurance premium tax. The Government's initiative goes much further, requiring insurers to disclose the names, addresses and all investment details of the clients. There are an estimated 3 million expatriates, 100,000 of which are estimated to be in the UK at any one time.

Bob Easton, Ailo tax committee chairman and technical sales director at Scottish Provident International, said the Government's crackdown was at odds with the stringent secrecy laws of Luxembourg, the centre of Europe's offshore industry. Mr Easton said: "Any employee or financial services company which disseminates confidential information to a third party can be prosecuted and is liable to fines and imprisonment. The effect of the Budget would be to put Luxembourg companies in direct conflict with UK law. It would also stop UK firms from doing business in the UK, which breaks the Treaty of Rome."

Insurers also strongly oppose the Revenue's renewed hostility against "highly personalised" portfolio bonds, single premium insurance policies often used by businessmen to shelter shares in privately owned companies. The Revenue has long regarded them as explicit tax avoidance.

From April 1999 it will impose a tax charge on a notional annual gain of 15 per cent of assets held in all such bonds. This has led to charges of retrospective taxation from insurers. Bob Golding, of Clerical Medical, said bondholders with assets of £210,000 could pay £175,000 in tax over 10 years.

Insurers are particularly incensed as the Revenue suffered a defeat over these bonds in the House of Lords last year.

SFA fines to go over £1m

CITY firms could face fines of more than £1 million under a new penalty policy unveiled yesterday by the Securities and Futures Authority (Richard Miles writes).

The SFA announced a fourfold increase in fines to be imposed on firms found to have breached rules. Maximum fines for individuals will double.

To date, the largest fine from the SFA is one of £300,000 imposed on Swiss Bank Corporation last August. This compares with a record £2 million fine on Deutsche Morgan Grenfell by Imro, the regulator for fund managers.



Building up: Frank Eaton, chairman of Barratt the housebuilder, surprised the City with a much better-than-expected rise in half-year profits. Page 29

Vickers shares rise as five contenders encircle Rolls

BY ADAM JONES

SHARES in Vickers rose yesterday amid indications that five contenders have bid, or may bid, for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the luxury car-maker that the company put up for sale last year.

Volkswagen became the first to declare that it has made a formal bid for Rolls-Royce, ending the secrecy that was expected to shroud the final stages of the protracted auction.

Ferdinand Piech, VW's chairman, told its annual results meeting in Germany that he made an offer on Tuesday afternoon, but he would not disclose its size.

The VW bid has the backing of Gerhard Schröder, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony and possibly the next German Chancellor, who is a member of its supervisory board.

Herr Piech's pre-emptive strike lifted Vickers shares from 225½p to 233p yesterday as the City warmed to the possibility that Rolls-Royce would go for a sum closer to £400 million than the £250 million suggested by industry sceptics, who say that BMW's engine-supply contract with Rolls makes it the only credible bidder.

BMW yesterday said that it is still preparing to bid, but one industry insider claimed that its offer is already on the table. Despite having publicly ruled itself out of the running, Mercedes-Benz has continued to track the sale process.

The fourth credible contender is Doughty Hanson, a UK venture capital group that is understood to have had talks with another UK party for a joint bid but is now going it alone.

Kevin Morley, a former Rover marketing director with links to Rolls-Royce enthusiasts, is fronting a management buy-in team. Its plans are thought to be less advanced than the others, but a bid may still be made.

Ford, the US motor company, is now thought to be out of contention. A wild card could be Michael Shrimpton, a barrister and Rolls-Royce owner who would like to raise money from enthusiasts and to keep the existing management.

Own-label

House of Fraser is putting its faith in own-labels after finding that its Linea fashion brand made a significant contribution to a recovery in annual profits. The company is to launch a second fashion label, designed to appeal to the over-40s, this autumn. **Page 28**

Road block

Tarmac is to channel more of its expansion efforts into road and rail maintenance in an effort to combat the block on road building. **Page 29**

Woolwich trio awarded big post-conversion pay rises

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WOOLWICH directors have been awarded steep pay rises in the wake of the building society's conversion to a bank in July.

Lynne Peacock, operations director, has received a 153 per cent rise to £261,000, while Robert Jeens, finance director, doubled his remuneration to £335,000. John Stewart, chief executive, took a more modest 53 per cent increase to £431,000, which included a bonus of £124,000, according to the bank's annual report.

Woolwich also paid compensation of £350,000 to Peter Burton, a former director, for loss of office after his decision to leave last December to "pursue other interests".

A Woolwich spokeswoman said that no director had received a "conversion" bonus and that the pay rises reflected the fact that all three were in lower-paid jobs for a good part of 1996. The bank currently has no share option scheme, but the spokeswoman said that it would present proposals for such a scheme at its annual meeting on April 22, when it will also seek approval for a share buyback programme.

Separately, Barclays disclosed that Bill Harrison, formerly chief executive of BZW, its investment banking arm, received £946,000 in compensation for loss of office.

Mr Harrison, who resigned after the bank announced its intention to dismantle BZW and has since joined Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, also forfeited a £1.5 million bonus. However, he can exercise share options at the end of the month with a potential £1 million gain.

KPMG sees net gains for Man United

BY JASON NISSÉ

A EUROPEAN football super league with up to two divisions and involving as many as 32 teams is expected to be in place in as little as three years' time, a survey of leading clubs, financiers and industry experts is predicting.

However, the bad news for the highly developed British football industry is that only one quoted club — Manchester United — is considered likely to gain an automatic place in the top flight and to enjoy the massive financial benefits that this league is expected to bring. The survey — conducted on behalf of KPMG's European Football Unit — asked the opinions of leading football clubs, including the former European Cup winners, AC Milan, Ajax and Liverpool, financial backers of football, including Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Singer & Friedlander and ING Barings, and other industry experts.

More than three quarters of those responding thought that there would be a league within five years. The consensus was that a super league, likely to play matches midweek, would be launched in the 2001-02 season. The league, run by Uefa, the European football organisation, would probably be two divisions of up to 16 teams in each.

The expectation is that a European super league could be a big money-spinner for the participating clubs — with 57 per cent of respondents thinking it will be more lucrative for clubs than the existing competitions.

The current European format is already highly lucrative. Newcastle United revealed that it had made £5.5 million of extra revenue from its participation in this year's competition and it was knocked out in the second stage. Manchester United, which reached the quarter finals, is expected to have made £10 million from its run.

The league may also have a detrimental effect on the Premier League, with the cream of sponsorship and TV income going to the European competition. Three teams from Germany and Italy are expected to be in the top flight with Manchester United. Two other English teams — Newcastle United and Liverpool — would be expected to gain admission to the second division.

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صكذا من الإصل

Argos and Littlewoods join forces

BY FRASER NELSON AND LUCY MCDONALD

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer fighting a £1.6 billion hostile bid from Great Universal Stores, has joined forces with rival Littlewoods through a joint venture which will take it into the clothing market for the first time.

Stuart Rose, who became chief executive of Argos six weeks ago, has agreed to stock a slimmed-down version of the Littlewoods Extra catalogue in every Argos store in return for 50 per cent of its profits.

The new catalogue will be named Fashion Direct and will be trialled over the next 12 months. Its range will include Calvin Klein and Armani labels, and is expected to lose £4 million before breaking into profit in two years.

Mr Rose also promised that the 1999 Argos catalogue will enjoy "a complete makeover" by stocking more expensive items.

Commentary, page 29

Recovery at House of Fraser

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAILING CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE OF FRASER is putting its faith in own-labels after its Linea fashion brand made a significant contribution to a recovery in profits.

The company, which yesterday unveiled a pre-tax profit of £29 million for the year to January 31, compared with a loss of £38.4 million a year ago, is to launch a second fashion label, designed to appeal to the over 40s, this autumn.

Linea, which is aimed at younger customers and was launched last year, now accounts for 15 to 17 per cent of its menswear and womenswear sales and has helped House of Fraser to improve margins sharply. Sales rose 3.9 per cent last year, while the gross margin grew 1.3 percentage points to 32.8 per cent.

Brian McGowan, chairman, said that, given the poor state the company had got into, margin growth was much more important than sales: "If everything is working like a Swiss watch then you can only look for growth through sales. Maybe in a couple of years we will need to start worrying more about the top line."

More work is planned on improving stores. Barkers, in Kensington, West London, is due to reopen next month, while DH Evans in Oxford Street, London, is also being considered for a revamp. John Coleman, chief executive, said that, after the closure or disposal of three stores, no other closures were planned. The Scunthorpe store has been sub-let, Eastbourne is about to close and its Sheffield high street store is being sold.

The company is looking for more stores and is focusing on about 27 towns. It is due to open at Bluewater Park in Kent and in Reading next year and is also in talks about a store in Belfast.

Earnings per share were 9.4p (11.9p loss) and the final dividend, due on July 1, is a maintained 3.8p making an unchanged total of 5.5p.

PETER TREVINOR



John Coleman said no more closures were planned

Peugeot's sterling gamble results in record losses

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PSA PEUGEOT CITROEN, the French car manufacturer, yesterday reported a record loss of Fr2.8 billion (£273 million), due to a disastrous gamble on the pound. The company thought sterling would go down against the franc. It went up.

Jean-Martin Folz, chairman, said the decision to bank on sterling's devaluation accounted for more than half the group's 1997 losses. A move to close PSA's operation in India also helped to push the group's 1997 results into the red.

M Folz will today visit London where he will attempt explain how France's largest private sector car maker lost so much money despite a rise in sales of 2.1 per cent in Europe and 5 per cent worldwide.

Jacques Calvet, M Folz's normally prudent predecessor, gambled that the pound had peaked when it reached Ffr8.80.

He took the highly unusual step of speculating on sterling's long-term decline. But sterling continued to climb. As it approached Fr10, PSA abandoned its gamble, buying pounds that it had pre-sold a year earlier for Fr1.20 less. The operation cost the group Fr11.44 billion.

But with UK sales accounting for about 10 per cent of the company's turnover, Peugeot-Citroen directors have privately expressed a deeply-held wish: that Britain joins the euro, removing any chance of another, similar fiasco.

Thomson offers holiday 10%

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

SUBSCRIBERS to shares in the flotation of Thomson Travel Group (TTG) will be offered a 10 per cent discount on Thomson holidays from May 1999, the company said yesterday.

Any number of friends and relatives will also benefit from the price cut if the shareholder travels in the group and retains a minimum shareholding.

TTG, the tour operating subsidiary of Canada's Thomson Corporation, is planning a £1.3 billion flotation in May. Mini-prospectus are to be available in April.

About 10 per cent of the global offer will be available to private investors, with the Thomson family holding 20 per cent and worldwide institutions taking up the remaining 70 per cent of shares.

TTG said that the minimum application from individual investors would be for shares worth £500. Anyone who became a shareholder in the flotation would join a "Founders Club" giving them a 10 per cent discount on Thomson and Skytours holidays and on properties rented through TTG's UK Holiday Cottages.

TTG says the benefits are to encourage long-term share ownership. They will not be transferred if shares are sold.

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Jobs at risk as MFI alters call handling

MFI, the furniture retailer, is to close a customer call centre that it opened only a year ago, which will bring about the loss of up to 101 jobs. An MFI spokesman said that it had decided to close the centre, at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, because the company was restructuring how it handled calls. Another customer call centre at Grays, Essex, is also facing reorganisation, although there are no job cuts expected there.

The 101 Milton Keynes staff have been told that the company is planning to spend 90 days looking for alternative jobs for them within the business. Any staff who have not been placed at that point will be made redundant. MFI, which has been struggling with poor sales, issued a profits warning this month and its shares have since slid below 90p as City analysts have sharply downgraded their profits forecasts.

Expansion on the cards

CLINTON CARDS, which yesterday unveiled record profits, is to open its 500th store next week in Bristol and plans up to 40 new shops this year. Among the openings will be 13 in Scotland and Clinton's first outlet in Northern Ireland. Pre-tax profit in the year to February 1 was £7.7 million, compared with £5.2 million a year ago. Earnings per share were 9.32p, against 5.86p a year ago. The final dividend, payable on June 2, has been increased from 1.43p to 2.25p, making a total for the year of 3p (2.05p).

Pegasus flies higher

SHARES in Pegasus Group rose 18½p to 293½p yesterday after the supplier of business software reported a 46 per cent rise in 1997 pre-tax profits to £1.7 million on turnover that rose 57 per cent to £12.4 million. Results were helped by the acquisition of CSM, an accountancy software supplier, in April 1997. Earnings per share rose 90 per cent to 29.3p. A final dividend of 5p lifts the total 7 per cent to 7.5p. The company said that it would invest heavily in new product development in the current year.

DCS advances to £4.9m

DCS, the information technology group, said pre-tax profit rose 62 per cent in the year to December 31 to £4.9 million, from £3 million, on sales up 70 per cent to £60 million (£35 million). Sales benefited from five acquisitions during the period. Earnings per share rose 52 per cent to 15.68p (10.3p). A final dividend of 1.25p is due on June 1, making 2.25p (1.75p) for the year. The group said it was continuing its focus on providing software services and products to enterprise resource planning, outsourcing and automotive markets.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.60	2.42	Malta	0.697	0.638
Austria Sch	22.50	20.84	Netherlds Gld	3.626	3.341
Belgium Fr	66.24	61.25	New Zealand $	3.12	2.88
Canada $	2.493	2.305	Norway Kr	13.27	12.33
Cyprus CypE	0.935	0.863	Portugal Esc	325.41	303.38
Denmark Kr	12.94	11.94	S Africa Rd	9.03	8.07
Finland Mrk	9.63	9.08	Spain Pta	270.78	251.99
France Fr	10.71	9.93	Sweden Kr	14.07	12.97
Germany Dm	3.22	2.98	Switzerland Fr	2.66	2.43
Greece Dr	559	520	Turkey Lira	408423	386551
Hong Kong $	13.80	12.69	USA $	1.782	1.639
Iceland	133	113	Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.		
Ireland Pt	1.27	1.18			
Israel Shk	6.39	5.74			
Italy Lira	3169	2952			
Japan Yen	230.44	212.91			

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Compulsion is a must for pensions

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Today Frank Field will unveil his plans for restructuring welfare provision. He has bravely taken up the challenge of trying to make the population understand that a comfortable old age cannot be assured without making middle age rather less comfortable. This is not the sort of news that politicians generally like to impart to voters but Field has made the issue a personal crusade.

A pension to supplement the state pension is the crucial element of his package. If this seondary pension is to be universally held, however, there can be no element of choice in the matter: there must be compulsion.

The public has every reason to be wary of the pensions business. The ramifications of the personal pensions mis-selling saga are still being calculated but compensation payments are estimated at as much as £11 billion.

The public has seen that pensions may not be as they appear when a clever salesman reaches for his projections. Worse still, it was the government that trumpeted the virtues of the personal pension. Lady Thatcher liked the idea of portability and independence that they contained. But her government embraced the concept to the extent that public authorities actually worked hard to help the mis-sellers in their efforts to drum up business. Nurses, for instance, did not all come to the conclusion that they would be better off with the Pru or Allied Dunbar on the strength of a call from a sharp salesman. Letters from health authorities suggested that they should be thinking this way.

So there is a huge credibility gap for Field to bridge if the nation is to be persuaded to subscribe willingly to his scheme. Yet the Government is determined to radically reshape the Welfare State and has already made the first, crucial, move in that direction with the plan to meld the tax and national insurance systems into one.

It took Martin Taylor, a businessman rather than a politician, to insist that this was the only logical way to begin reforming the tax and benefits system. Nevertheless in the City there will be some relief that Taylor is now free to concentrate more completely on his main job. Having completed his complicated review for government, Taylor has also now resigned from the board of WH Smith. He is saying little about the reasons behind this seemingly abrupt departure, but insiders suggest that, as chairman of the nominations committee, he was unhappy about the way the new chief executive was anointed by chairman Jeremy Hardie.

Anyhow, with his outside interests now curtailed, Taylor will be able to focus his formidable intellect fully on the task of sorting out Barclays. As the annual report makes clear, he has sufficient share options in the business to encourage him to think of the long-term future of the bank and ensure that, if he is successful, his interest in Mr Field's second pensions will be academic rather than personal.

Argos alliance tests GUS offer

There is a piquant touch to Littlewoods' decision to launch a joint venture with Argos. James Ross's plans for merging his catalogue business with that of the Sears subsidiary, Freemans, were blocked by Margaret Beckett. One of the more effective lobbyists against the deal was GUS. If the Littlewoods link with Argos has the effect of indicating quite what benefits GUS might be aiming to achieve from its own takeover of the store group, and thus force up shareholders' idea of what might constitute a reasonable price for the company, Ross might be forgiven a gentle smirk.

The stock market's immediate response to the news of the link-up, and the punchy presentation from Stuart Rose, was to push Argos shares upwards and underline the impression that the GUS offer of 570p is in need of a significant upgrade if it is to stand the chance of success.

Rose, after his six week induction course into Argos, has more surprises to offer than a move into selling clothes for Littlewoods. Yesterday's presentation to the City made much of the potential for improving the basic business but kept silent on the prospects for handing cash back to shareholders. That bit of the armoury is being held in reserve.

Figures from House of Fraser yesterday underlined the scope for improving returns from retailers that have suffered neglect. John Coleman, like Rose a graduate of the Burton school, appears to be squeezing significantly better profits from a modest upturn in sales. An innocent investor wandering into some Fraser stores — try the Army & Navy in Bromley — may wonder how the apparent peace and tranquility turns into healthy till receipts. The answer is that Fraser still harbours some stores it would be better off without. It remains a mystery how such duds could have looked so good when the Fayeds floated Fraser.

Just how crucial location is in the retail market is underlined by Chelsfield. Elliott Bernerd's property company has recorded a 20 per cent jump in net assets over the year. At the huge Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands, new rents are being set at £185 a square foot as against the prevailing £145 only a year ago. As terms are renegotiated around the complex, the uplift for Chelsfield will amount to about £30 million. Bernerd is pushing ahead with his plans to turn White City into the pre-eminent shopping destination of West London. The retailers will pay up to bring his ambitions to fruition.

Super-watchdog will need matching teeth

Time was when there was nothing Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas would have liked more than a merger of gas and electricity regulation, because she had good hopes of becoming its boss. Those were the days when she was the nation's favourite watchdog and Stephen Littlechild at Offer was in the dog-house, accused of being the electricity industry's poodle. Now, after the dismemberment of British Gas, Ms Spottiswoode is in the opposite corner, her idiosyncratic approach to gas regulation having wrecked shareholder value.

Utilities regulation is another of those areas where Labour has learnt how difficult it is to implement policies that seemed clear cut in opposition. Profit-sharing was rejected as retrospective and discouraging efficiency: instead, any claw-back of profits must be seen to be deserved, punishing deliberate sleight of hand or adjusting for unexpected good fortune.

Pass over the original windfall tax, about as retrospective as legislation gets, or the fact that equity would require a corresponding claw-back in the form of sharply higher bills to compensate companies for unexpectedly higher costs. Despite all the intellectual effort that went into the search, there has been found to be no alternative to the RPI minus X formula. Yesterday's proposed reforms open up huge areas of uncertainty in terms of defining unearned benefits or excess profits. It will be up to the new super-regulator to frustrate the industry's rule-book lawyers.

Euro poser

HAVE the markets become bored with the euro? Dealers greeted the escalation of the ERM row between Britain and the European Commission with a collective yawn. The critical European Monetary Institute report prompted barely a ripple in the markets. With so many economic fault lines remaining, Europe's politicians must be praying that the City's non-reaction reflects confidence, and not a temporary bout of euro fatigue.

Road block sees Tarmac plot change of course

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TARMAC is to channel more of its expansion efforts into road and rail maintenance in an effort to combat the block on road building.

The company, which has for long been best known for road building, is diversifying into rail maintenance as part of a three-pronged strategy to drive growth in the business. Its other efforts, according to Sir Neville Simms, chief executive, will involve bolt-on acquisitions and management improvements across its operations.

Cost savings across its operations, largely fuelled by gains from the 1996 asset swap with Wimpey, pushed up pre-exceptional pre-tax profits by 60 per cent to £120.2 million for the year to December 31. However, losses on selling a Canadian minerals business brought down that figure to £115.2 million.

Tarmac continued to lose money on its professional services, the business which offers design and consultancy work. But losses were thought to have been reined back from about £5 million in 1996 to around £3 million this year, with some of the divisions making profit.

Despite fairly flat volumes, which Tarmac had warned the market about earlier this year, Sir Neville remained optimistic about prospects for the company. He said it expected to recruit staff this year. He said: "The construction market in the UK is improving and there should be more growth in Europe."

Some £60 million of debt has been sliced from the business, bringing down gearing from 45 per cent in 1996 to 37 per cent. The improved balance sheet will be used to support more bolt-on acquisitions by Tarmac both in the UK and overseas.

Earlier this month the company spent £20 million on a US concrete paving business. Sir Neville said the acquisitions, which the company has been making over the past few years, would continue "at a slightly faster pace".

Headline earnings per share rose from 5.5p in 1996 to 8.3p. The total dividend was raised from 5.5p to 5.65p, with the final payment of 2.65p due on June 22.

Tarmac was upbeat about prices this year. Sir Neville said prices for heavy materials, including dry stone, asphalt, and concrete blocks, were rising and that the general environment was "benign". He said: "All those prices are starting to go up and it looks as though the industry generally has a will to make sure that sticks." Sir Neville predicted a period of steady, sustainable growth.

Tempus, page 30



Sir Neville Simms is optimistic on Tarmac's prospects

Barratt exceeds City forecasts with 37% leap

BY ADAM JONES

BARRATT Developments, the UK's second-largest housebuilder, suprised the City with a 37.5 per cent increase in interim profits.

Profits before tax were £34.1 million in the last six months of 1997, beating City forecasts of about £30 million, as turnover rose 25 per cent to £388.3 million. Frank Eaton, who succeeded Sir Lawrie Barratt as chairman last November, said the sales intake since January is the best for a decade.

Despite the figures, Mr Eaton took a swipe at the Labour administration, claiming it is not tackling the "chaos" of the planning system and that ministers have "turned their backs on supporting home ownership".

He attacked the goal of having 60 per cent of all new houses built on "brownfield" land that had a former use, such as inner-city sites, even though Barratt exceeded the total by 3 per cent. He claimed the measure would encourage local authorities to refuse anything that was not brownfield, hitting workers in smaller urban areas who would not be able to find homes nearby.

The average price of a Barratt home rose 13 per cent to £94,800, although this should be about £93,000 in the year-end results because of a disproportionate number of London sales in the first half. Mr Eaton expects house prices to rise 3 to 4 per cent this year, and by about 5 per cent in the South.

He said land costs were kept down to 26 per cent of selling price in the six months and that Barratt has enough land for two-and-a-half years of development, allowing for projected sales increases. Earnings per share rose from 7p to 10p and an interim dividend of 3.3p (3p) will be paid on May 22.

Dairy Farm sells Somerfield stake

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

DAIRY FARM International Holdings has sold its 11 per cent stake in Somerfield, the supermarket chain, raising £174 million, it was announced yesterday.

The shares were placed with institutional investors through Cazenove and Robert Fleming, the brokers. Dairy Farm, part of the Jardine group, which is based in Hong Kong, said that the disposal completed the group's exit from Europe. It now plans to focus all its attention on the Asia-Pacific region.

Dairy Farm was a significant shareholder in Kwik Save, the discount retailer, and played a prominent role in Kwik Save's recent merger with Somerfield. Although Dairy Farm was always thought likely to sell its shares in the enlarged company in the longer term, the prompt disposal surprised City analysts.

The sale of Dairy Farm's stake comes after a sharp rise in Somerfield's share price. Boosted by positive City comment, the shares rose to a record high of 345½p before slipping back 2p yesterday.

The sale is expected to hasten Somerfield's search for a new chairman as Simon Keswick, chairman of Dairy Farm, is not due to stay on in the job after the sale of the shareholding.

Andrew Thomas, who stood down as chairman of Somerfield to become deputy chairman after Mr Keswick's appointment, is thought likely to take over as interim chairman while a permanent replacement is sought.

Bernard Matthews hopes for TV boost

BY KATHY LIPARI

THE prospect of more TV appearances by Bernard Matthews to revive the ailing fortunes of the eponymous poultry company he chairs was raised yesterday after the group revealed a 38 per cent fall in pre-tax profits.

The company blamed currency pressures and declining meat prices for the decline in taxable profits to £14.1 million from £22.6 million. This was despite a 4.8 per cent increase in sales to £372 million and came before a £1.9 million exceptional charge incurred from the closure of one of its Lincolnshire factories.

David Joll, managing director, said the company had been "very damaged" by the impact of sterling on exports but had been hit with the "double whammy" of cheaper imports reducing meat prices.

To combat the problem the group is embarking on an aggressive marketing campaign, bringing forward the launch of new value-added products and doubling TV advertising expenditure for the year.

Earnings per share in 1997 fell to 6.06p (12.69p), but the final dividend rises to 2.5p (2.4p) for a total 4.3p (4.1p). The company's shares closed 2½p weaker at 88½p.

US trials for eczema treatment cancelled

Phytopharm, the company seeking to develop drugs from plant-based remedies, has shelved plans to seek regulatory approval later this year for the eczema treatment that is its lead product.

It has decided not to commit its dwindling resources to a planned US trial of Zemaphyte, despite positive results reported yesterday from two UK studies. The eczema treatment is a niche product intended only as a hospital treatment. Phytopharm has decided it makes more sense to concentrate on potentially more valuable products, such as an appetite suppressant and its treatments for osteoarthritis and Alzheimer's disease.

The company hopes to secure deals with large pharmaceutical companies that would fund the development of these projects. Richard Dixey, the chief executive, said his small team is struggling to cope with the level of interest from institutions.

A licensing deal with a major would allow Phytopharm to bolster its own finances. It only has about £4.5 million left.

Shire to raise £20m in US

Shares in Shire Pharmaceuticals jumped 12.5 per cent to a new high of 409p as it announced an American share offering that will raise £20.6 million and cut the number of shares held by venture capitalists.

Rolf Stahel, the chief executive, said the increased share base would give a market value of more than £560 million. This would make Shire bigger than British Biotech, and other emerging pharmaceutical companies with the exception of Medeva.

Shire came to the market at 175p two years ago but expanded last year by acquiring Pharmavene and Richwood in the US. Unlike many of its peers, it is already making money.

Lonrho board faces Rowland lawsuit

BY JASON NISSE

TINY ROWLAND, who left Lonrho more than two years ago but refuses to bow out gracefully, is considering suing the board over a legal dispute in South Africa which could lose Lonrho £44 million.

The action is an attempt to force the board to sue Dieter Bock, the man who succeeded Mr Rowland at the helm of Lonrho and ultimately forced the tycoon out of the company he built up. Mr Rowland claims that Mr Bock was responsible for a letter which may end up losing Lonrho its legal action in South Africa.

The former chief executive will today circulate a critique of the board ahead of Lonrho's annual shareholders meeting on Friday. The letter to shareholders, which includes an attack on the the handling of a joint venture between Lonrho and Impala, a mining operation spun out of Gencor, the South African giant. Lonrho sued Impala over the transfer of the Karee platinum mine into the venture. The mine was found to have significant probelms after the transfer.

Lonrho sued Impala, but a judge in South Africa threw out the case earlier this month, relying heavily on a letter from Mr Bock to Brian Gilbertson which appeared to offer to drop the action. Lonrho has appealed against the ruling and says it will take no other action until the Impala case is settled.

However, Mr Rowland is not about to let the issue drop and says in his letter to shareholders: "I have instructed my solicitors to pursue shareholders' interests in the case of the Bock/Gilbertson letter."

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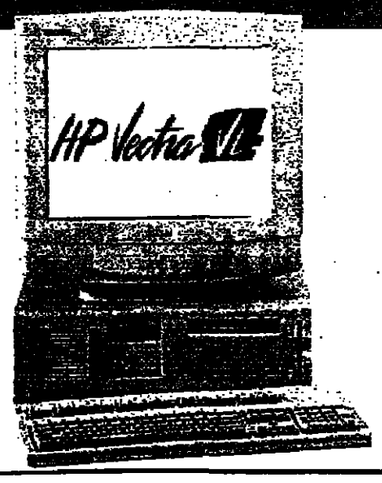
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STOCK MARKET



Stock Market Writer of the Year

Rate rise spectre returns to haunt nervous markets

INVESTORS suffered another see-saw performance from the equity market with share prices eventually moving further away from the elusive 6,000 level.

Whispers that today's CBI Distributive Trades Survey may provide evidence that the economy is still gathering pace raised the spectre of higher interest rates and enabled the bears to gain the upper hand.

Gavyn Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, and the man once tipped to replace Eddie George as Governor of the Bank of England, also stirred the pot earlier in the week by calling for an immediate rate rise.

It all proved too much for the FTSE 100 which managed to claw its way back above the 6,000 mark first thing with a rise of almost 24-points. But the strong case for dearer money saw it close 15.9 down at 5,967.8, despite an opening rise on Wall Street. Total turnover reached 971 million shares.

There was a muted response within the industry to the announcement that Railtrack plans to invest £17 billion in infrastructure, but the City was ecstatic. Its involvement in the London Underground privatisation and high-speed Channel Tunnel link have made it a favourite with fund managers. The shares closed 43½p higher at £10.33½.

Speculative buying hoisted **Racal Electronics** 4p to 328p in a falling market. Some brokers are convinced a bid may be on the way to coincide with the retirement of Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman.

Revived hopes that **Rentokil Initial**, up 5p at 352p, may be poised to bid for **Compass** lifted the latter 15p to 980p. Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, has dropped a number of hints that he is on the lookout for another major acquisition.

The information and technology stocks were up and running again. The sector, which was formed in January, has been one of the strongest performers this year. **London Bridge Software** led the way with a leap of 97½p to £10.80 and there were also gains for **CMG** 27½p to £25.27½, **MSB International** 45p to 765p, and **Misys** 40p to £30.40.

Carlton Communications dropped 25p to 460p on claims that NatWest Markets, the broker, reduced its recommendation on the shares from "hold" to "reduce".



Stuart Rose, chief executive of Argos, the retailer, whose shares rose 13p to 620p after yesterday's trading update

ICI slipped 4p to £10.56 in the wake of Tuesday's profit downgrading by Schroders. But Schroders remains a buyer of the stock and other brokers such as Credit Lyonnais Laing are taking an increasingly favourable view of prospects.

Savoy 'A' tumbled 135p to £16.65 following a report in *The Times* that its main shareholders, the Wontner family and Gerry Robinson's Granada Group, had fallen out over how the spoils would be divided if the company agrees to one of several bid approaches.

Vickers touched 242½p before closing 7½p dearer at 233p amid hopes that a bidding war may develop for its Rolls-Royce luxury car group. Volkswagen has entered the bidding to challenge BMW.

Hang on for the ride in **Argos** was the message from brokers as the price climbed 13p to 620p following a trading update. The retailer, which is currently fighting off an unwanted £1.6 billion bid from **Great Universal Stores**, reported a 4.8 per cent rise in like-for-like sales in the 12 weeks to March 21. Analysts are telling clients that GUS, 2p easier at 777p, will have to cough-up more if it wants to win the day. A counterbid cannot be ruled out.

Shield Diagnostics advanced a further 20p to 665p. Tests carried out on its Activated Factor 12 have concluded that it does have the ability to detect cardiovascular problems early on from a relatively simple blood test.

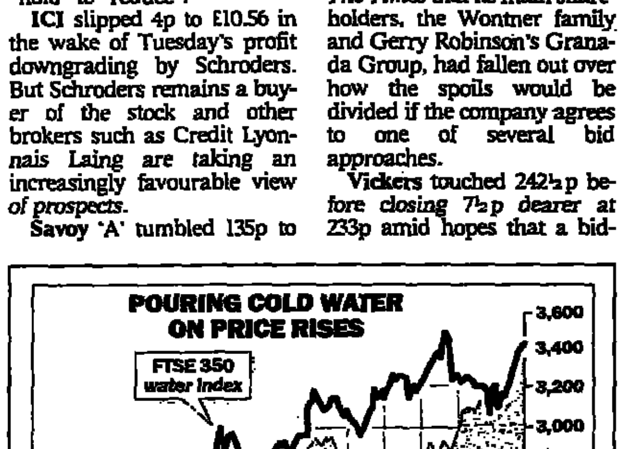
Troubled **ViewInn** said it does not know of any reason for the latest sell-off in its shares. But the AIM-listed company's comments fell on deaf ears with the price dropping 6p to 11½p.

A profits warning left **John Tams** licking its wounds with the price finishing 4½p off at 17p. The household appliances group says the strong pound and cheap imports mean second-half profits will be substantially less than those achieved in the first six months.

AIM-listed **Theo Fennell** rose 3½p to 53½p on the news that four directors had bought a total of 170,000 shares between them.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices gave up early gains as the spectre of rising interest rates came back to haunt the market. The short end of the yield curve suffered the worst of the falls amid growing fears about today's CBI Industrial trends survey. The auction of £2 billion of Treasury 7.25 per cent 2007 was subscribed 3.03 times despite the call from one economist for the Bank of England to raise rates. In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt closed unchanged at £108¼ in light trading, while among conventional issues Treasury 7 per cent finished a tick easier at £109 13/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street stocks were solid early on before easing as a technology buying spree tailed off. At midday the Dow was up 26.16 at 8930.59.



THE water companies were awash with good news yesterday and responded accordingly. Leading the way higher was United Utilities with a jump of 26p to 881p followed by Severn Trent 28p to £10.28, Anglian 24p to 930p, Hyder 15p to 977½p, South West 16½p to 982p, Thames 12p to 972p, Wessex 1½p to 525p and Yorkshire 3½p to 546p.

Philip Hollobone at Panmure Gordon, the broker, put it down to a culmination of events. The Green Paper on regulation contained nothing too demanding while the regulator's comments about environmental expenditure may even prove positive. Meanwhile, analysts continue to focus on this week's encouraging view on pricing policies from Thames and the Prime Minister's comments about a strong pound will only encouraged demand for domestic issues.

"The water companies failed to make headway during January and February with the likes of Wessex underperforming by 16 per cent. We remain buyers of the whole sector," he said.

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 8930.59 (+26.16)
S&P Composite .... 1110.54 (+4.89)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 16658.34 (+51.95)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 11810.63 (+165.20)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 1141.25 (+11.12)

Sydney:
AO .... 2781.6 (-10.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5096.62 (+68.38)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1667.22 (+26.68)

Brussels:
General .... 17889.60 (+179.17)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 3818.71 (+80.17)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1513.40 (+10.00)

London:

FT 30	3790.2 (-6.5)
FTSE 100	5967.8 (-15.9)
FTSE 250	5544.4 (+21.1)
FTSE 350	2868.0 (-4.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2808.10 (+18.58)
FTSE All-Share	2795.85 (-3.00)
FTSE Non Financials	2762.59 (-6.50)
FTSE Fixed Interest	141.01 (+0.40)
FTSE Govt Secs	104.33 (-0.06)
Bargains	75667
SEAQ Volume	971.5m
US$	1.6763 (+0.0013)
German Mark	3.0623 (-0.0024)
Exchange Index	107.7 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.5451
£:SDR	1.2475
RPI	160.3 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.5 Feb (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

Aberdeen High Inc	120½	...
Advent 2 VCT	100	...
BGR	246	- 1
Bass B	97½	...
Eurotunnel 01/03 Wts	5	...
Guardian IT	426	- 1½
Hartford Grp	3	...
Monsoon	201½	+ 3
Oxford Asymmetry	427½	+ 3½
Peel Hotels	97½	+ 7
Pennant Intl	162½	...
Quadrant Health	141	- 1½
Quester VCT 2	90	...
Safestore	87½	- 17½

Oxford Bio n/p (10)	3½	...
Paragon n/p (180)	38	+ ½
Pex n/p (3)	½	...
Westbury n/p (235)	20	...

RISES:

Glenchewton	78½p (+17p)
Shire Pharms	409p (+45½p)
Clinton Cards	120p (+12p)
Brake Bros	797½p (+79p)
House of Fraser	170p (+14½p)
BLP Group	194p (+14p)
Alba	181p (+11½p)
Vanguard	835p (+37½p)
Cattles	829p (+38p)
Delta	314p (+16½p)
Irish Life	507p (+23p)
Blue Circle	400p (+17½p)
Roxboro	229½p (+10p)
Barratt Devs	319p (+13p)
Powell Duffryn	589p (+22½p)

FALLS:

Ben Bailey	85½p (-10p)
BPP	735p (-45p)
Carlton Comm	460p (-25p)
Ladbroke	342p (-16p)
Prism Rail	450p (-20p)
British Land	725p (-29p)
British Borneo	347½p (-12p)
Northern Foods	306p (-10½p)
Helphire Group	380p (-12½p)
Rolfe & Nolan	495p (-12½p)

Closing Prices Page 35

Tarmac's road ahead

TARMAC'S attempt to reinvent itself has seen it shift away from roads, where its name is synonymous with road-building, towards rail maintenance. This is a small market and Tarmac already has 20 per cent of it but it offers an opportunity to diversify.

The move is just one part of Tarmac's efforts to pep up a lacklustre business challenged by a lack of public spending on big infrastructure projects and a sharp contraction in road building.

The group is reaping the rewards of its assets swap with George Wimpey two years ago, which has now delivered the expected cost savings and margin improvements. Pre-tax profits jumped by nearly 60 per cent to £120.2 million last year. This was helped by a good performance from the building materials side, which increased its contribution by nearly 20 per cent to £141.6 million. But although construction margins have improved from 1 per cent to 1.8 per cent, this remains an unimpressive level of profitability. With strong construction markets in the UK and the US, and Europe recovering, there is scope for further improvement.

Tarmac's chief problem is that it has little room for flashy moves to encourage growth and is, to a large extent, dependent on public building policies.

Gearing, at 37 per cent, has returned to Tarmac's target range. But that leaves the company with scope only to buy bolt-on businesses.

Tarmac will eagerly await the Government's integrated transport review. But short of that yielding a miracle, the shares are, at best, a hold.

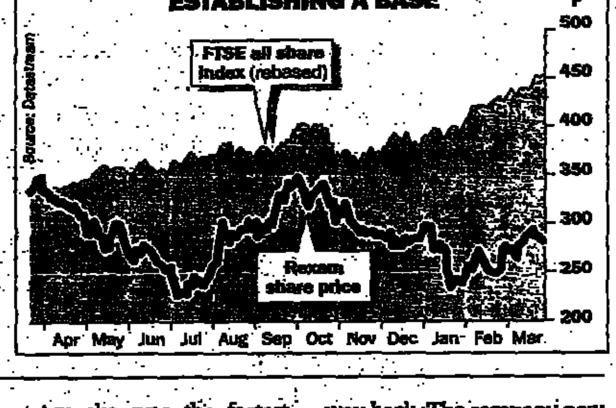
Rexam

AFTER some difficult years, Rexam presents its latest results as a foundation for future growth. The packaging company's continuing business produced a 12 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £190 million. Return on sales has climbed back close to 10 per cent and return on net assets has bounced from 17.6 to 24.5 per cent.

Three years of disposals have yielded £344 million. Rexam recognises this has left it with an inefficient capital structure, but it is ignoring the sirens calling for it to load up with debt through a share buyback or similar exercise. It prefers instead to spend its money on acquisitions, which makes sense in the out of favour packaging sector. It has already made four purchases this year. The biggest is the one-third stake Rexam has taken in Der Kwei, a German company that should strengthen its beauty packaging business.

Rexam has also made an interesting move in delaying the payment of its 1997 final dividend until April 1999. The logic is this will minimise the loss of irrecoverable advance corporation tax. Small shareholders may disapprove, but other large companies may follow Rexam's lead.

Hoare Govett is forecasting profits of £200 million this year, or 25.7p of earnings, putting the shares, 282½p yesterday, on a multiple of 11 times. That looks decent value.



Aggreko

WITH the popularity of demergers, investors have grown used to looking at pro forma figures adjusted for all manner of distortions. Aggreko has elevated this practice to new heights by restating its numbers to adjust for the impact of the Atlanta Olympics. Ex the Olympics, the power and air conditioning rental group reckons it achieved underlying growth of 16.3 per cent.

Unfortunately, in the real world that disallows such a pick 'n' mix approach to business, Aggreko's operating profits improved by only 2.1 per cent.

Stripping out the Olympics is not quite as daft as it seems. It seeks Atlanta was in such chaos in the run-up to the Games that the organisers were prepared to pay any price to get their hands on Aggreko's generators. The company does not expect a repeat at other large international events.

Aggreko was the fastest-growing part of Christian Salvesen, and its fundamentals continue to look sound. Rental offers customers flexibility, obviating any need for them to tie up money in equipment they only use infrequently. Thus far, as demand has dipped in one market, Aggreko has been able to move its equipment to more prosperous areas — last year it switched generators from Germany to Sri Lanka.

At 178p, up 3p yesterday, the shares trade on 20 times forecasts of this year's earnings. High enough.

DC Cook

DEREK COOK has known a few ups and downs in his 30 years as a car dealer. Shortly after floating his company, DC Cook, a decade ago, the row between Octav Botnar's Nissan UK and Nissan of Japan blew up. DC Cook was caught in the middle and lost all of its Nissan franchises.

But Derek Cook clawed his way back. The company now has 37 franchises and about £450 million of annualised turnover. Yesterday's purchase of Pendragon's multi-franchise site in Derby should increase sales by another 10 per cent immediately, with the possibility of a similar amount to come.

Sceptics worry that this site has not been profitable for Pendragon. This is not so surprising — Pendragon is not in the high-volume end of the market.

Assuming that DC Cook can make its usual 2.8 per cent pre-tax margin at Derby, the purchase will add at least £1.1 million to profits.

So why did DC Cook's share not repond to the deal? No doubt the same reason that the company has a market capitalisation of less than £20 million and trades on a prospective earnings multiple of just five. The City is behind events and DC Cook is ready for a rerating.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1067-1061	May	1164-1160
May	1077-1076	Jul	1182-1180
Jul	1089-1088	Sep	1197-1190
Sep	1106-1104	Dec	unq
Dec	1126-1124		
Mar	1145 BID		Volume: 2422

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1730-1725	Nov	1630-1625
May	1725-1722	Jan	1605-1590
Jul	1688-1685	Mar	1575-1565
Sep	1660-1655		Volume: 2719

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	277.3-75.7
Spot: 270.5		Mar	280.3-78.2
May	266.5-66.0	May	283.3-80.2
Aug	269.5-68.5	Aug	287.5-84.0
Oct	274.4-73.2		Volume: 3261

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 24

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	74.83	96.00	85.60
(+/-)	-0.58	-4.75	-0.19
Eng/Wales:	74.96	96.56	83.96
(+/-)	+0.77	-4.11	-0.57
(%)	-5.0	-8.0	-1.0
Scotland:	73.82	94.74	91.74
(+/-)	-1.05	-6.27	+2.08
(%)	+34.0	+40.0	-17.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	14.25	+0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	14.80	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Jun)	15.05	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (May)	16.20	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	16.50	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	156 (-2)	159 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	133 (-2)	134 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	65 (-1)	68 (n/c)
Naphtha	140 (-1)	141 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	136.75-37.00	Jul	143.50-43.75
May	138.75-39.00	Aug	146.50 SLR
Jun	141.00-41.25		Vol: 20635

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	14.82-14.83	Aug	15.57 BID
Jun	15.11-15.13	Sep	15.74 BID
Jul	15.37 SLR		Vol: 33453

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	71.60	May	72.50
Jul	73.60	Sep	71.50
Sep	73.40	Nov	73.50
Nov	75.40	Jan	75.50
Jan	77.25	Mar	77.50
Volume: 796		Volume: 40	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	unq	60.5
May	69.0	67.5
Jun	unq	74.5
		Volume: 83

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Apr 45.75-46.25

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 98	980	980	980
Apr 98	990	985	990
May 98	1010	1005	1010
Jul 98	948	938	943
Vol: 170 lots		Open interest: 1641	

Index 997 -14

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1737.0-1738.0	1765.0-1766.0	1461597
Lead ($/tonne)	567.00-568.00	568.00-569.00	231650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1084.5-1085.5	1110.0-1111.0	399325
Tin ($/tonne)	5466.0-5470.0	5490.0-5460.0	21925
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1445.0-1445.5	1472.0-1473.0	1580925
Nickel ($/tonne)	5510.0-5515.0	5605.0-5615.0	72432

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
ASDA	180	21½	28	34	½	5½	9
(*189½)	200	7½	16	23½	6¼	13½	17½
Abbey Nat	1150	60½	118	151½	28½	65	92
(*1177½)	1200	35	93½	127	53	88½	116½
AllLeic	850	58½	87½	109	14½	39	52
(*893½)	900	27	61½	83	37½	63½	75½
Alld Dom	550	43	62½	73½	4½	25	29½
(*587)	600	13	36½	53	23½	48	52½
BAA	550	27½	46½	59	9½	25½	32½
(*567½)	600	6	23½	35½	37	54½	57½
BAT Ind	600	35	67½	78½	13	33½	44
(*622)	650	10	42	54½	37½	59	69½
Barclays	1700	101½	182½	227½	26½	80½	114½
(*1767½)	1800	48	132	177½	70½	129	162½
Bass	1100	60½	97	118½	17	51½	60½
(*1136)	1150	32½	72	92	38½	75½	84½
Boots	900	47	77	101	11½	38	51½
(*933)	950	21	51½	77½	34	61½	73½
Br Airways	600	34½	58½	76	9	29	40
(*623½)	650	10½	35½	52½	34½	55½	68
BP	850	57½	90	111½	10	32	43
(*893½)	900	28½	63½	86	28	54½	66
Br Steel	140	10	16	19	2	9½	12
(*147½)	160	1½	7	10½	13	21½	24
C&W	750	33	66	94	23	53½	66½
(*754½)	800	13	45½	71½	53½	82½	94
CU	1150	53½	116	143½	28	73	94
(*1171½)	1200	30½	91	119	54	95	108½
Glaxo	1600	58	143	184	48	105½	141
(*1602)	1700	23½	98½	142	111	159	196½
HSBC	2000	81	186½	242	67½	141	181½
(*2002)	2100	39½	123½	195	126½	194	233
Halifax	900	50	88½	112	17½	42	52
(*930)	950	23½	62½	88½	38½	66½	75½
ICI	1050	35½	82½	105½	23	55	76
(*1057½)	1100	15½	59½	81	52½	80½	101½
Land Sec	1050	45	76½	104½	20	45½	63
(*1070)	1100	20½	51½	79	45½	76	88½
M&S	600	19	38	57½	15	34	41½
(*601½)	650	3½	18½	30½	50	64	71½
Nat Pwr	550	39	63½	76½	11½	29½	40
(*578½)	600	14	37½	52	32	56	67
Nat West	1100	44	98	127	35	67½	92
(*1108½)	1150	23½	73½	102	64	91½	118
Reuters	588	60	83	107½	5	24	39½
(*641½)	645	23½	57	77	23½	47½	61½
RylSun	750	55	89½	110½	12½	35	54½
(*787½)	800	27	63	86	34	58½	73
Safeway	360	20½	36½	45½	7½	23½	31
(*378)	390	7½	24½	33	21½	39½	46
Sainsbury	500	22	38	50½	10½	25	30½
(*510½)	550	5	17½	28½	42	55	59
Shell	420	29	41	52½	5	17½	23½
(*444½)	460	7	22	33	21	37½	44
SmKl Bch	700	61½	100	127½	11	38	53½
(*747)	750	34½	74	104½	30½	60½	75
Std Char	850	73½	127½	161	18	59	82½
(*898)	900	44	103½	138	37½	84	108
Thames W	950	38	87½	87	17	45	54½
(*968)	1900	16½	43½	63½	44	72½	81½
Vodafone	550	33½	59½	79½	13	33	43
(*572)	600	11½	36½	55½	39	59½	68½
Woolwich	360	24½	43½	51	4½	18½	22½
(*377½)	390	9	28½	38	19	33½	37
Zeneca	2400	96	206½	267	58	127½	164½
(*2417)	2500	51½	156½	216	111½	160½	213

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BTR	200	14½	24	29½	12	19	23
(*200½)	220	7½	16½	21½	24	30½	35
Blue Circ	350	28	43	54	24	34½	41½
(*398½)	420	16½	30	41½	42	51½	58½
Br Aero	2000	115½	194	252½	79½	123½	157
(*2017½)	2100	71½	143½	202½	134½	174½	206½
Br Telecom	600	65½	84	93½	9½	22½	29½
(*649½)	650	35	55½	66½	27	41½	51½
Cadbury	800	57	92½	97	21	34½	45
(*838)	850	30½	56½	70½	44½	58½	68
Energy Gp	800	42	43½	47½	2½	4	8
(*837½)	850	5½	8	13½	17½	23	33
Gallaher	330	20½	34	40½	15	23	31
(*332)	360	9	21½	27½	32½	40½	48
GEC	460	28	39½	51½	17	29½	33½
(*467)	500	11½	23	34½	47½	51½	56½

	Series	Calls May	—	—	Puts May	—	—
Diageo PLC	613	104	—	—	4	—	—
(*716½)	671	54	—	—	17½	—	—

	Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Diageo PLC	671	54½	81	—	16½	31½	—
(*716½)	729	23½	51½	—	44	59	—
Hanson	360	27	29½	38½	17	22½	28
(*367)	390	9½	17	26	36	40	45½
Imp Tob	390	38	46½	55½	6	13½	18
(*418½)	420	20	29½	38½	17½	26	31½
Kingfisher	1150	49	88	115½	53	71½	83
(*1154½)	1200	29	65½	92½	83	100	110½
Lasmo	280	18	30½	36	13	20	21½
(*285)	300	10	21½	26½	24	31	32
Ladbroke	330	27	40	49	13	20	25
(*342)	360	14	25½	34½	29	36	40
LucasVar	220	23	31	36½	6½	12½	13½
(*236)	240	11½	20½	26½	14½	22	23
P&O	850	58½	87	97	21	32½	45½
(*897)	900	31	54½	69½	44½	56	68

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Prudentl	950	57½	95½	117	48½	73	90½
(*950½)	1000	37	71½	93	77	99½	116
Rio Tinto	750	73½	121½	120	16½	33½	51
(*798)	800	46	74½	94½	37	58	72½
Redland	330	16	16½	—	½	1	—
(*345)	360	½	2½	—	15½	15½	—
R-Royce	280	23	33½	42½	14	21½	28
(*290)	300	13½	24½	33	24	32	36
Tesco	550	40½	59½	71½	11½	22	26½
(*579½)	600	15½	34½	45½	36½	47	51
Utd Bisc	260	17½	27	31	8½	12½	17
(*266)	280	8½	17	21½	19½	22½	27

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
BG PLC	306	27	—	—	13	—	—
(*318)	330	15½	25	30½	25½	30½	36
BSkyB	460	38½	53½	67	30	41½	49½
(*464)	500	22½	36½	49½	53½	63½	71½
Br Bio	79	15½	22	25½	10	13	16
(*73½)	89	11½	18½	22	15½	19	22
Centrica	110	14	17	20½	5	7	8
(*115½)	120	9½	13	16	9	12	13
Dixons	500	49½	66½	77½	19	30½	35
(*522)	550	26	43½	53½	45	55½	61
EMI	500	54½	72½	84½	22½	40	47½
(*523½)	550	31	48	61½	48	67	74
Granada	1050	72	102	126	34	54	66
(*1072½)	1100	46½	75½	100	58½	77½	90
GUS	750	66½	85	101	25½	37	51
(*778½)	800	40	63½	75½	49½	67½	75
Lloyds TSB	950	72½	105	131	56	79	94
(*951½)	1000	50	82	105½	83½	105	119½
Lonrho	110	10½	14	—	7½	11	—
(*111)	120	6	10½	—	13½	16½	—
Norwich	460	41	58	69	21½	30½	37½
(*479½)	500	23½	39	50	43½	51½	58½
Orange	390	54½	73½	83	22	32½	38
(*419½)	425	33	60	89½	36	47½	53
Railtrack	1000	54	120	143½	45	63½	78
(*1024)	1050	63	97	119	70	88	101½
Scot Pwr	550	49½	63	75	32	40½	45
(*585)	600	27½	41½	53	61	68	74
Tarmac	110	13	16	17½	3	4½	6½
(*119½)	120	8	11	12	7½	9	11
Tomkins	360	29	36½	42	12½	21	24½
(*370½)	390	14	22	28½	28	36	40½
Unilever	550	40	55½	66½	18½	24	30½
(*570)	600	18½	33	42½	43½	50½	55

March 25 Total: 27010 Calls: 14821 Puts: 12189

FTSE INDEX (*5982½)

Strike	Calls Apr	Calls May	Calls Jun	Calls Jul	Calls Dec	Puts Apr	Puts May	Puts Jun	Puts Jul	Puts Dec
5800	242½	311	374	426	635½	56	103½	144	172	269½
5850	206½	271	344	393½	—	68½	116	162	190½	—
5900	171	241	311	361	575	83	134½	182	208	308½
5950	141	212	281½	330½	—	103	156	201½	227½	—
6000	111½	183½	252	300	514	124	178½	222	247	351½
6050	86½	158	222½	266	—	145½	203½	244½	267	—
6100	67	135	197½	243	454	182	234	272½	294	395½
6150	49	113½	177	220	—	213	264½	302	323	—

March 25 Total: 2548 Calls: 876 Puts: 1672

*Underlying security price

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 98				126-04	0
Previous open interest 204126	Jun 98	108-12	108-23	108-05	108-08	87876
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 98	107.75	108.16	107.65	107.77	163368
Previous open interest 204430	Sep 98				107.41	0
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98	102.64	102.70	102.51	102.54	2190
Previous open interest 11292	Sep 98				103.69	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 98	119.73	120.10	119.60	119.69	64799
Previous open interest 141701	Sep 98	120.25	120.37	120.25	120.06	800
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 98	130.93	130.99	130.70	130.84	1410
	Sep 98				130.76	0
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.53	92.53	92.48	92.48	17905
	Sep 98	92.66	92.66	92.58	92.59	14069
Previous open interest 845153	Dec 98	92.83	92.84	92.73	92.74	28783
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 98	96.350	96.350	96.330	96.335	29976
Previous open interest 2107277	Sep 98	96.210	96.225	96.190	96.195	30345
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 98	95.42	95.43	95.37	95.38	47530
Previous open interest 915250	Sep 98	95.84	95.86	95.81	95.83	23128
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 98	98.55	98.57	98.47	98.49	14953
Previous open interest 114903	Sep 98	98.39	98.40	98.30	98.33	9946
Three Mth ECU	Jun 98	95.83	95.86	95.83	95.83	859
Previous open interest 41710	Sep 98	95.87	95.89	95.86	95.86	441
FTSE 100		N/A				
Previous open interest 152629	Jun 98	6065.0	6083.0	6025.0	6039.0	19537

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 10 Low 7½ Week fixed: 7½
Treasury Bills (Dis):Buy: 2 mth 6¹³⁄₁₆; 3 mth 6²⁵⁄₃₂. Sell: 2 mth 6²⁵⁄₃₂; 3 mth: 6²⁵⁄₃₂.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7³⁄₃₂-7½	7²⁹⁄₃₂-7½	7½-7³⁄₃₂	7½-7½	
Sterling Money Rates:	7½-7½	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7½	7½-7¹⁵⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹⁵⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹⁵⁄₃₂
Interbank:	7½-7½	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7½	7½-7¹⁵⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹⁵⁄₃₂	7¹⁵⁄₃₂-7¹⁵⁄₃₂

Overnight: open 7½, close 8.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7½	7½	7½
Sterling CDs:	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½
Dollar CDs:	5.59	n/a	5.59	5.59	5.71
Building Society CDs:	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½	7½-7½

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-5½	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	4-3
French Franc:	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-3½	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1½-1½	1½-1½	1½-1½	1½-1½	1½-1½
Yen:	½-½	½-½	½-½	½-½	1-par

Bullion: Open $298.75-299.05 Close: $299.30-299.80 High: $299.60-300.10
Low: $297.90-298.40 AM: $298.50 PM: $299.25

Krugerrand: $304.00-306.00 (£182.00-184.00)

Platinum: $409.00 (£243.75) Silver: $6.335 (£3.775) Palladium: $278.00 (£166.65)

Mkt Rates for March 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.4440-3.4569	3.4499-3.4521	1½-1½pr	3½-3½pr
Brussels	63.010-63.290	63.138-63.207	22-17pr	64-57pr
Copenhagen	11.647-11.694	11.670-11.677	½-½pr	½-½pr
Dublin	1.2133-1.2221	1.2161-1.2183	17-10pr	62-52pr
Frankfurt	3.0550-3.0672	3.0609-3.0628	1-½pr	3-2½pr
Lisbon	312.86-314.07	313.44-313.72	½-½pr	2½-2½pr
Madrid	259.16-260.26	259.64-259.87	64-53pr	217-188pr
Milan	3016.6-3020.2	3016.6-3020.2	56-39pr	175-152pr
Montreal	2.3627-2.3706	2.3663-2.3680	0.57-0.52pr	01pr
New York	1.6722-1.6766	1.6760-1.6766	0.26-0.24pr	0.773-... 12pr
Oslo	12.655-12.703	12.672-12.677	½-½pr	1½-1pr
Paris	10.241-10.280	10.259-10.265	½-½pr	1-½pr
Stockholm	13.239-13.307	13.263-13.282	½-½pr	1-½pr
Tokyo	215.23-217.58	216.00-216.24	1½-1½pr	3½-3½pr
Vienna	21.495-21.582	21.534-21.549	½-½pr	2½-1½pr
Zurich	2.4915-2.5070	2.5014-2.5040	1½-1½pr	4-3½pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

Australia	1.4903-1.4914
Austria	12.87-12.88
Belgium (Com)	37.72-37.77
Canada	1.4120-1.4125
Denmark	6.9742-6.9762
France	6.1342-6.1352
Germany	1.8300-1.8305
Hong Kong	7.7470-7.7480
Ireland	1.3721-1.3741
Italy	1802.0-1804.0
Japan	129.00-129.10
Malaysia	3.5900-3.6100
Netherlands	2.0624-2.0629
Norway	7.5715-7.5724
Portugal	187.35-187.45
Singapore	1.6005-1.6015
Spain	155.21-155.26
Sweden	7.9316-7.9416
Switzerland	1.4945-1.4955

Argentina peso*	1.6728-1.6755
Australia dollar	2.4926-2.4960
Bahrain dinar	0.623-0.637
Brazil real*	1.8971-1.9000
China yuan	13.701-14.001
Cyprus pound	0.882-0.901
Finland markka	9.2025-9.3435
Greece drachma	528.25-538.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.9553-12.9647
India rupee	65.35-66.65
Indonesia rupiah	unq
Kuwait dinar KD	0.505-0.516
Malaysia ringgit	5.9868-6.0741
New Zealand dollar	2.9709-2.9763
Pakistan rupee	72.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0175-6.1525
Singapore dollar	2.6740-2.6806
S Africa rand (com)	8.232-8.401
U A E dirham	6.070-6.206

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

3i	1,300	Land Secs	1,100
AMVESCAP	1,500	Legal & Gn	3,800
ASDA Gp	7,300	Lloyds TSB	9,300
Abbey Ntl	3,900	LucasVarity	10,000
Allnce & Leic	1,400	Marks Spr	11,700
Allied Dom	3,600	NatWst Bk	6,100
AB Foods	1,100	Nat Grid	3,000
BAA	4,300	Nat Power	3,600
BAT Inds	8,700	Next	1,100
BG	12,100	Norwich Un	4,400
BOC	1,600	Nycomd Am	1,000
BP	16,400	Orange	2,200
BSkyB	2,900	P & O	6,600
BTR	9,700	Pearson	2,300
BT	20,300	PowerGen	2,200
Bk of Scot	3,100	Prudential	4,300
Barclays	4,300	Railtrack	4,000
Bass	1,700	Rank Group	5,700
Billiton	3,200	Reckitt Col	1,500
Blue Circle	6,000	Reed Intl	5,000
Boots	2,600	Rentokil	5,300
BAe	1,100	Reuters	8,700
BA	3,000	Rio Tinto	4,700
Brit Energy	5,100	Rolls Royce	8,900
British Land	1,300	Royal & Sun	5,400
Brit Steel	5,400	Royal Bk Scot	4,100
Cable Wire	5,000	Safeway	4,000
Cadbury	3,000	Sainsbury	4,100
Carlton	10,600	Schroders	112
Centrica	13,500	Scot & New	2,900
Cm Union	1,100	Scot Power	2,200
Compass	1,400	Svrn Trent	1,400
Diageo	9,700	Shell Trans	22,800
EMI	3,300	Siebe	3,600
Energy Gp	3,100	SmKl Bch	8,800
Enterpr Oil	2,000	Smiths Inds	1,200
GKN	514	Std Chartd	2,200
GRE	1,400	Sun Life	668
GUS	1,900	Tesco	5,800
Gen Acc	1,000	Thames W	1,300
Gen Elec	8,400	Tomkins	4,200
Glaxo Well	7,000	Unilever	5,800
Granada	2,600	Utd Utilities	3,400
HSBC	6,100	Utd News	1,600
Halifax	7,200	Vodafone	11,600
Hays	1,400	Whitbread	1,700
ICI	1,400	Williams	7,800
Kingfisher	1,800	Wolseley	5,600
LASMO	3,000	Woolwich	3,500
Ladbroke	6,400	Zeneca	1,800

	Mar 25 midday	Mar 24 close
AMP Inc	42½	42½
AMR Corp	140½	138½
AT & T	67½	67½
Abbott Labs	75¾	76½
Advanced Micro	23½	23½
Aetna Life	83¾	83¾
Ahmanson (HF)	81½	80½
Air Prod & Chem	83½	83¾
AirTouch Comm	49½	50½
Albertson's	51½	52½
Alcan Aluminum	32½	32½
Allied Signal	43½	42¾
Alum Co of Am	72½	71½
Amerada Hess	60½	60½
AEP	50¾	50¾
Amer Express	96½	95¾
Amer Genl Corp	62½	62½
Amer Home Pr	90½	91
Amer Intl	129½	127½
Amer Stores	24¾	24½
Amer Standard	46¾	46½
Ameritech	48¾	49½
Amgen	61½	61½
Amoco	87½	87½
Andrew Corp	20½	20½
Anheuser-Busch	46½	47
Apple Computer	27½	28
Archer Daniels	22	22½
Armco	6½	6½
Armstrong Wrld	87½	88¾
Asarco	26½	26½
Atl Richfield	81½	81¾
Atmel Corp	14¾	14¾
Auto Data Pro	70½	70½
Avery Dennison	54	52½
Avon Products	80½	80½
Baker Hughes	40½	40½
Baltim Gas & El	33	32¾
Banc One	63½	62½
BankAmerica	85½	85¾
Bank of NY	63½	62¾
Bankers Tr NY	122¼	120¾
Bausch & Lomb	45½	45½
Baxter Intl	61¾	61¾
Becton Dickinson	70½	70½
Bell Atlantic	104¾	104¾
BellSouth	64½	65
Best Foods	117½	117½
Black & Decker	52½	52½
Block (H&R)	47½	47½
Boeing	52½	52½
Boise Cascade	36½	36½
Boston Scien	68½	69½
Bristol Myrs Sq	109½	109½
Browning Ferris	32½	32½
Brunswick	35½	34½
Burlington Nthn	105½	105½
CMS Energy Corp	46½	46
CSX	58¾	58½
CBS Corp	33½	33½
Campbell Soup	62½	61¾
Carolina Pwr	45¾	45½
Case Corp	69½	68½
Caterpillar	55½	56½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	56½	56½
Chase Manhat	135½	134½
Chevron Corp	85¼	85½
Chrysler	43½	43½
Chubb Corp	80½	80
Cigna Corp	206½	203½
Citicorp	143¾	143½
Clorox	87½	87½
Coastal Corp	67¾	66½
Coca Cola	76	76
Coca Cola Ent	35½	36½
Colgate-Palm	89½	88½
Columbia Energy	78¾	78½
ColumbiaHCA	31½	30½
Compaq Comp	26½	25½
Comp Ass Intl	54¾	54¾
Conagra	31¾	32½
Cons Edison	47½	47½
Cons Nat Gas	57	56½
Cooper Inds	60½	59¾
Corestates	91½	91½
Corning Inc	43½	43
C'wide Credit	52½	52
Crestar Finl	60½	59¾
Crown Cork	52½	53½
Dana Corp	58½	58½
Dayton Hudson	87½	86½
Deere	60½	62¾
Delta Air Lines	120½	117½
Deluxe Corp	34½	34½
Digital Equip	52	50½
Dillard Dept St	37½	37½
Disney (Walt)	107	107½
Dominion Res	41¾	40½
Donnelley (RR)	41½	40½
Dover Corp	39½	39½
Dow Chemical	95½	94½
Dow Jones	51¾	50½
Dresser	49½	49½
Duke Energy	60½	59½
Dun & Bradstreet	33½	33½
Du Pont	69¾	69¾
Eastman Chem	65½	67½
Eastman Kodak	64½	64½
Exxon Corp	95½	95½

	Mar 25 midday	Mar 24 close
Edison Intl	30¼	30½
Elec Data Sys	47½	48½
Emerson Elec	65½	65½
Engelhard Corp	19½	19½
Enron Corp	47½	47½
Entergy	29¾	29½
Ethyl Corp	8½	8½
Exxon	68½	68½
FDX Holding	67½	67½
FMC Corp	76½	75½
FPL Group	64½	64½
Fifth Third Banc	85½	84½
Fleet Finl Grp	84½	84
Fluor Corp	50½	50½
Ford Motor	65½	65½
Fort James	47½	48½
Fortune Brands	40½	40½
Franklin Res	56½	55
GTE Corp	59	59
Gannett	68½	68¾
Gap Inc Del	45¾	44½
Gateway 2000	46½	45½
Gen Dynamics	88	89½
Gen Electric	82¾	82¾
Gen Mills	75½	75½
Gen Motors	70½	70½
Gen Reinsurance	222½	220½
Gen Signal	44¾	44½
Genuine Parts	37½	37½
Georgia Pac	65½	65½
Gillette	120½	118¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	53½	53¾
Goodrich (BF)	54½	52½
Goodyear Tire	75½	74½
Great Lakes	52½	52¾
Halliburton	51½	50½
Harcourt General	54½	55
Heinz (HJ)	58½	59½
Hercules	50½	49¾
Hershey Foods	73	72½
Hewlett Packard	64¾	63½
Hilton Hotels	33½	33½
Home Depot	66½	66½
Homestake Mng	9½	10
Honeywell	82¾	81¾
Household Intl	139½	138¾
Houston Inds	28½	28½
Humana	25½	25½
Ikon Office	34½	33½
Illinois Tool	63½	62¾
Illinova	29¾	29½
INCO	19½	19½
Ingersoll Rand	48¾	48¾
Inland Steel	28¾	28½
Intel Corp	78	78¾
IBM	105¾	105½
Intl Flav & Fr	49½	45½
Intl Paper	49½	49½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	73½	73½
Kellogg	43½	44
Kerr-McGee	71½	71
Kimberly-Clark	50½	50½
Kmart	16¾	16¾
Knight-Ridder	56½	56½
Lilly (Eli)	60½	62½
Limited Inc	29½	28¾
Lincoln Nat	85½	85
Litton	59	58¾
Liz Claiborne	52½	51½
Lockheed Martin	114¾	115½
Louisiana Pac	23½	23½
MCI Comm	50½	50½
Manpower Inc	39½	39½
Marriott Int	81½	81½
Marsh & McLen	90½	89½
Masco Corp	58¾	58½
May Dept St	62¾	62½
Maytag Corp	49½	48½
McDonalds	53½	52½
McGraw Hill	76½	76½
Mead Corp	35½	35½
Mediaone Corp	31	30½
Medtronic	54¾	54¾
Mellon Bk	65	64¾
Merck Inc	130½	131½
Mercury Fin	0¾	0¾
Merrill Lynch	86½	85¾
Microsoft	89¾	84¾
Minnesota Mine	95¾	94¾
Mirage Resorts	24½	24½
Mobil Corp	79½	78½
Monsanto	52½	51½
Morgan (JP)	136½	136½
Motorola Inc	56¾	55½
Mylan Labs	23½	23½
Natl Semi	20½	20½
Natl Service Ind	59½	58½
Navistar Int	35½	35½
NY Times A	65	64½
Newmont Mng	29½	28½
Nike B	44½	45½
NL Industries	16¾	16¾
Nordstrom	61½	60½
Norfolk Sthrn	38½	39½
Nthn States Pwr	59½	59½
Norwest Corp	43	42¾
Occidental Pet	29¾	29¾
Office Depot	28½	28½
Oracle	30½	30½
Oryx Energy Co	27½	27

	Mar 25 midday	Mar 24 close
Owens Corning	35½	35½
PPG Industries	68½	67¾
PMI Group	81¾	79¾
PNC Bank	60½	60½
PP&L Res	23½	23½
Paccar Inc	63½	63½
Pacificorp	24½	24¾
Pac Enterprises	40½	40½
PaineWebber	42½	42½
Pall Corp	21½	21½
Parker Hannifin	51¾	51¾
Peco Energy	21½	22
Penney (JC)	74	74½
Pennzoil	67½	66½
Pepsico	42½	42½
Pfizer	94½	94¾
Pharm & Upjhn	44¾	44½
Phelps Dodge	68½	66½
Philip Morris	44½	43½
Phillips Pet	51½	51½
Pitney Bowes	50½	51½
Polaroid	45½	45½
Procter & Gmbl	86½	86½
Providian	60½	60
Pub Serv E & G	37	37½
Quaker Oats	58½	58
Ralston Purina	105½	102¾
Raytheon Corp	42½	41¾
Raytheon B	60½	60½
Reebok Intl	30½	30½
Reliastar Fin	47½	47½
Reynolds Metals	65½	64½
Rockwell Intl	58¾	54¾
Rohm & Haas	103¾	103
Royal Dutch	57½	58½
Rubbermaid	28½	28½
SBC Comms	45½	46
Safeco Corp	54½	54¾
St Paul's Cos	90½	90½
Sara Lee Corp	61½	61½
Schering Plough	83½	83½
Schlumberger	78½	77½
Seagram	39½	39½
Sears Roebuck	58½	58½
Shell Trans	44½	45½
Sherwin Wllms	34½	34½
Silicon Graphics	14½	14½
Snap-On-Tools	45½	45½
Southern Co	28½	28½
Southtrust	43½	43½
Sprint Corp	71½	71½
Stanley Works	53½	53½
Starwood H & R	52½	51½
Sun Company	41½	40½
Sun Microsys	45½	44½
Suntrust	76½	76½
Supervalu	46½	46½
Synovus Fin	38½	38½
Sysco Corp	26½	26
TRW Inc	55½	55½
TIG Hldgs	28½	28½
Tandy Corp	47¾	48½
Temple Inland	64½	64½
Tenet Healthcare	38½	38½
Tenneco	43½	43
Texaco	61½	61½
Texas Inst	59¾	53½
Texas Utilities	40½	40¾
Textron	78½	77¾
Thermo Elect	39½	39
Time Warner	75½	75½
Times-Mirror A	64½	64½
Timken	34½	34½
Torchmark	47½	45½
Toys R Us	28½	28½
Transamerica	124½	[illegible]
Travelers	62½	[illegible]
Tribune	67½	67½
UST Inc	32½	[illegible]
US Bancorp	125½	[illegible]
UAL	91½	90½
Unitrin	69½	70
US Inds	27¾	27½
US West Comm	55½	[illegible]
US West Media	37	[illegible]
USAirways Group	72¾	[illegible]
USX Marathon	38½	[illegible]
Unicom	35½	[illegible]
Unilever NV	68½	[illegible]
Union Camp	61½	[illegible]
Union Carbide	49½	[illegible]
Union Pacific	54½	[illegible]
Unisys Corp	19½	[illegible]
USF&G Corp	24½	[illegible]
United Tech	95½	[illegible]
Unocal Corp	40½	[illegible]
VF Corp	52½	[illegible]
Wal-Mart Stores	50½	[illegible]
Warner-Lambert	164½	[illegible]
Waste Mngmt	30½	[illegible]
Wells Fargo	335½	[illegible]
Weyerhaeuser	56½	[illegible]
Whirlpool	69½	[illegible]
Whitman	19½	[illegible]
Winn Dixie	35½	35½
Witco Corp	38½	40½
Woolworth	25½	25½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	82½	82½
Xerox	103½	101½
Xilinx Inc	40½	39

Too taxing to define an elephant

Next month, Gordon Brown promises us, he will publish draft legislation for "a general anti-avoidance *rule* for direct taxes". We are all in favour of that aren't we? After all, any taxes that the rich contrive to avoid have to be made up by the rest of us. One minister's off-shore trust is cash off another family's budget.

Tax avoidance can be more deeply anti-social. The City abused pension funds' ability to claim back tax on company dividends to promote share buybacks and pad takeover bids, culminating in Granada's bid for Forte. This probably cost other taxpayers upwards of £1 billion by the time Kenneth Clarke's lackadaisical regime closed the loophole.

Even worse, it created the climate for Mr Brown to abolish the relief, carving a slice off annual returns on investments in pension funds. Ultimately, the actions of a few smart corporate financiers will force millions of future pensioners to do without holidays, cars or new clothes in retirement.

Surely, a sweeping law against avoidance would get rid of such nonsense. Well no, actually it would not. Since Parliament intended pension funds to enjoy this tax break, no general anti-avoidance rule would stop them abusing it. The same applies to the Labour tycoon who paid top earners in gold bars to avoid National Insurance Contributions. Legislators just have to wake up fast to implications of their actions that they did not think of.

The proposed anti avoidance rule will doubtless owe much to a draft drawn up under the aegis of the Institute for Fiscal Studies in November by the Tax Law Reform Committee, an august all-party body including top judges, practitioners and alumni of the Inland Revenue. Far from being the one-line prohibition you might expect, this draft is a long-winded attempt to define an elephant. It is as mindboggling as the tax laws that spawn loopholes in the first place.

In essence it aims to rule out "transactions that are designed to avoid tax in a way that conflicts with or defeats the evident intention of Parliament." To this end, a tax-driven transaction is defined as one "that has as it sole purpose, or as its main purpose ,or as one of its main purposes, the avoidance of tax". That definition is so swingeing that it would destroy citizens' historic right to arrange their affairs to pay least tax. Petite ladies might be prosecuted for buying VAT-free children's clothing.

So there have to be caveats. One is that anything that might be encouraged by legislation or does not specifically defeat it or that is an exception to anti-avoidance provisions would count as a "protected transaction".

Confused? You are bound to be. Even tax experts expect to be. So they specify, as a key feature, a



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

right to ask the Inland Revenue for a ruling in advance on any proposed tax arrangement. The Revenue,at vast expense, must stick its thumb up or down within 30 days and, if it doesn't cry foul, it is committed to allow the scheme.

This blows the gaffe. Far from ending tax avoidance, a blanket rule would just be another move in the endless game. The Chancellor and his Daz-washed team aim to shift the balance of advantage their way, taking the pressure off those obscure lawyers who draft unreadable tax laws. Tax experts see a chance to find their grail: the certainty that would make their lucrative lives so much easier.

They could try out new avoidance schemes, no doubt on behalf of Bloggs the butcher, Biggs the baker or Cholmondeley the candlestick maker, until some unsuspecting junior inspector gives the thumbs up and the scheme can be sold to multi-billion multinationals. Meanwhile, the Revenue will be brought to a standstill by thousands of ordinary self-assessing taxpayers, scared of being sent to Wormwood Scrubs if they put half their Individual Savings Account in their spouse's name.

Without this right of prior review, the tax Establishment would fight against a tax-avoidance rule. So they should. It is not necessary. Twenty years ago, oppressive taxes had fathered a much more malevolent avoidance industry. Groups such as Rossminster marketed bizarre and wildly artificial tax avoidance devices that might take 50 separate steps, involve flying lawyers and documents in small planes to be signed in Deauville and immediately returned or wash millions through a North London theatre charity trying to put on Shakespeare. It took journalists to expose the vast revenue loss and a change of heart among judges to end it.

In the Ramsay judgment, the courts effectively ruled that series of transactions designed to spirit away a tax liability were null and void if they had no commercial reality. The Furniss v Dawson case extended this, allowed wholly artificial deals with no meaning to be reconstructed. Developing case law , including the recent McGuckian judgment, solidified the principle that the intended will of parliament should be the test.

This case law has two huge advantages. The courts can spot an elephant much easier than parliament can define one. And it does not give tax-dodgers certianty, the prize of fixed rules to get round.

Now parliament needs to act. Tax laws should be simpler so that they create fewer loopholes. They should change rarely so that the process of closing loopholes does not keep having to start again. Last week's caspitasl gains tax reform will create at least as many new loopholes as the ones it will sweep away. Most of all, tax laws should have clear explanations of their purpose attached so that the courts can more easily enforce it.

An anti-avoidance panacea will offer a gift to tax advisers or wield a Continental-style hammer to freedom and spawn more of the illegal tax evasion so rife in Germany. The traditional British sport of tax avoidance is better than Euro-evasion.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Busy twilight for Midshires chiefs

From Peter Wynne-Davies

Sir, As someone with financial interests in the Halifax, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Birmingham Midshires, I have been following the development of the sale of the building society with more than usual interest. The current situation — described as a farce by your correspondent — may evoke many different responses but the only certainty here is to query the competence of the current directors of the Midshires for having willingly signed up to the most odd of legal constraints that now bring them and their one million investors to the current impasse.

Agreeing a price in advance with no option for review in what they acknowledge themselves is a turbulent time in the banking sector, and subscribing to a clause which forbids them talking to third parties, is a course of action which beggars belief especially in view of the Halifax offer, which dwarfs what is available from the Royal Bank.

Some weeks ago I wrote for clarification to the chief executive of the Birmingham Midshires but did not get a reply. I noted in their annual review which was delivered this morning that they have listed the home telephone numbers of all their board directors. This might be good PR but I sense that their evenings may be fully occupied for some time to come.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WYNNE-DAVIES,
93 Bedford Road,
East Finchley, N2 9DB.
peterwd@btinternet.com.

Reading matters

From Mr Tom Sharman

Sir, I have a modest shareholding in the Energy Group, and have received Texas Instruments' offer. This document weighs 2¼ lbs and consists of 430 pages. Am I really expected to wade through this? If this is the law then the law is an ass.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SHARMAN,
Chalke Cottage,
Rockbourne,
Hampshire, SP6 3NA.

Field notes may point the way for US pensions revolution



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

Bill Clinton owes his popularity — higher than ever after 10 weeks of scandal — to his knack for exploiting the paradoxes in the American character. A nation founded by puritans is willing, even eager, to overlook its President's misdemeanours provided it is feeling good. Nor is US individualism a bar to demanding a helping hand from Washington when the tornados sweep through Main Street — or when workers want a pension on which to retire.

That is why Mr Clinton's new rallying call to "Save Social Security first", dreamt up amid the furore over Monica Lewinsky, is pure political genius. The time was when the topic of the creaking state pension scheme was thought so lethal to political aspirations that it was dubbed the "third rail" of politics — touch it and die.

But Mr Clinton's mantra has a homely, wholesome air, like Baroness Thatcher's equation of the national debt and household books. Eat bread before cake, it says. Voters think how prudent, how responsible. No other policy could have conjoined those adjectives with Mr Clinton's name.

The same urgent tone surrounds the Green Paper published today by Frank Field, Social Security Minister. But pensions represent one of those rare cases where Britain is far better placed than the US. The UK population overall is ageing more slowly, the state pension scheme is better funded compared to the demands that will be placed on it, and the use of private and company pensions alongside the state pension is well established.

Congressmen now talk enviously of "the British model", while the conservative Heritage Foundation praised "Britain's quiet pension revolution" in a study during the summer last year.

Indeed, the partly privatised arrangements in Britain — even before Mr Field has set to work improving them — represent one of the easiest and best solutions to the American problem. The question is whether Mr Clinton can make the jump from a compelling slogan to that brave new world.

Washington politicians are now fluent in the vocabulary of crisis when discussing US social security. In fact, the US has only a medium-severe case of the affliction shared by all industrial countries whose workforces are ageing. Under the system set up in 1935, workers and their employers each pay taxes of 6.2 per cent of wages, providing pensions for those who have retired and benefits for the disabled.

If no changes were made, the cost of benefits, already the largest single item in the federal budget, would outstrip revenues by 2010. The fund would run out entirely in 2029, forcing taxes to rise sharply or benefits to be cut.

In attempting to avoid the consequences of that arithmetic, those who still want to see the state provide an adequate pension have suggested wistfully that if the national fund, now made up of Treasury bills, were invested in the stock market, the higher returns would close the gap.

Others favour some form of "privatisation", relying on private savings to make good the shortcomings of the State scheme. One suggestion — also likely to feature prominently in Mr Field's paper — is to force people to start saving schemes to top up the state pension, perhaps through an extra tax on wages. A third, backed by what remains of the radical right in Congress, is the complete privatisation of pensions; everyone would take full responsibility for investing for their retirement.

There are practical concerns about privatisation, such as whether unsophisticated investors would be vulnerable to poor advice, witness the British saga of



High life: grey power has locked pensions to politics

pensions misselling. Gary Burtless, of the Brookings Institution, points out that the current system redistributes savings heavily in favour of poorer families and the disabled, and that politicians would have to decide if they wanted to set up new ways of protecting these groups from poverty. But the split between those favouring public and private solutions has tended to fall along ideological lines. While Mr Clinton straddles the centre, calling for bipartisan committees to look at all options, his rhetoric of "fixing" social security implicitly encourages voters to expect a State safety net. However, the debate over public versus private is something of a red herring. The main advantage usually claimed for some form of private savings is that people would invest to get a higher return than they currently get, comparing their pension to the national insurance they have paid. But if private pension savings could get a higher return by exposure to the stock market, then so could a State pension scheme investing in stocks.

The much more important and controversial point is whether the country is prepared to suffer the pain of switching from the present "pay-as-you-go" system, in which workers pay for the retirement of generations ahead, to one in which workers pay for their own retirement. This transition will leave the generation now in their 30s and 40s paying twice — for the baby boomers retiring now, and for themselves.

It is this double burden that sends the electricity surging through the "third rail". No politician who seriously tackles the problem can expect to be popular. The inescapable message is that Americans now in work must sacrifice some of their consumption.

In political terms, the unpalatibility of that message is likely to tip the balance towards some kind of flexible privatisation, perhaps along British lines, rather than the "grand fix" of the State scheme that Mr Clinton has seemed to imply. Workers are more likely to be prepared to save more of their wages if they have direct control over the assets. They know that money is coming to them, or to their families if they die before using it all.

The economic advantages claimed for privatisation are highly debateable; they can often be obtained through a public system. But in political terms, privatisation of pensions is likely to win hands down. Americans have loved their 60-year-old social security system, but might well now jibe at being asked to buy it eternal life. Its future is more likely to veer towards Britain today — or even some of the suggestions in Mr Field's paper.

Year 2000 bug comes under virtual assault

When he took the helm of the Government's Action 2000 group, Don Cruickshank warned businesses would be flooded with offers from companies claiming to be able to end all their millennium worries.

The difficulty is to work out which are genuine. One of the more innovative proposals has come this week from Unisys, the US information technology giant.

Unisys is launching a European marketing offensive to promote its "virtual factories" which, it claims, will make tackling Year 2000 problems much faster and more efficient than at present.

The company claims it will be able to analyse computer code using several different factories around the world. Each will specialise in looking for millennium problems in different kinds of code.

Using telephone lines and computer networks, a company based in London would be able to have its code analysed in, say, Canada or Germany. The physical location of the factory would make no difference to the customer — hence the "virtual factory".

Unisys has set up its virtual factories in several different countries, including Scotland, Canada, Germany, France and the US. "If one of these factories is full, you can take the code somewhere else for processing," says Dave Permenter, a millennium manager at Unisys.

He adds the factories are similar to assembly lines, with employees trawling through computer code looking for the famous millennium problem — the date expressed as only two digits, causing the computer to think it is 1900 when it is in fact 2000.

Whether or not the millennium solution offered by Unisys is better that those offered by its competitors remains to be seen. However, the use of electronic distribution to overcome such a fundamental problem, will add to confidence in the Internet as a business tool.

☐ AN Internet site claiming to be "The Fastest Software Store on Earth" has been launched this week by a joint venture between two US companies, At Home Corporation and Release Software. SoftwareNow, claims consumer

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

software can be downloaded in seconds over cable television networks. In theory, the huge reduction in distribution costs should give the company a significant advantage over its high street competitors.

☐ THE future of the hotel industry will depend on the Internet, according to executives who spoke this week at a conference in Nice, France, organised by the International Hotel and Restaurant Association. Hoteliers said customer information provided over the Net was even more important than automated reservation systems.

CHRIS AYRES

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Crédit impasse

THE EUROPEAN Commission, as ever anxious to meddle in areas that need not concern it, has renewed calls for Crédit Lyonnais to sell its London operation. In 1994 the bank, almost entirely owned by the French state, was allowed by the Commission to avoid bankruptcy through an arrangement under which a wide range of assets had to be sold to allow privatisation. Various bits have gone, including most recently the upmarket wallpaper maker Manuel Canovas. But the bank, the French finance ministry and the EU commissioner for competition, Karel Van Miert, are bickering over whether Crédit Lyonnais should now be required to quit London and Zurich.

One wonders how much of the London business, which owns Laing & Cruickshank, can actually be severed from investment banking worldwide and sold off, but French *amour propre* stands on one side and the Commission on the other. As it happens, Sir Brian Pitman at Lloyds Bank recently said he might be interested in buying all of Crédit Lyonnais — but for the French Labour laws.



Sir Brian Pitman: stumped by labour laws in France

☐ *IN whose staff newsletter can you find the following? "How do you protect the business information which is one of our most important assets? Do you take precautions? A company as big and diverse as ours must protect itself against threats to the security of the information on which our business depends." British Airways, in a bit of trouble itself over some information belonging to rival Virgin Airways a while back.*

Dash, no cash

I AM concerned to learn that, in the interests of raising money for charity,

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

a couple of distinguished old men from the Treasury and the Bank of England are undertaking an arduous 15-mile run around the City on April Fool's Day. (No, I checked. April 1 marks the transfer of debt management from the Bank to the new Treasury Debt Management Office). In my day, Bank of England runners were aged about 75 and wore frock coats and stove-pipe hats everywhere, and their chances of completing 15 miles were about nil. I am reassured that they are a little younger these days, and Andrew Brookes of the Bank and Paul Mills of the DMO should survive the ordeal.

They are collecting from the 17 gilt-edged marketmakers and three inter-dealer brokers within the Square Mile on behalf of Children Nationwide, the medical research charity, with £20,000 pledged so far. Potential muggers might note that most of the cash is being picked up beforehand, and the payments on the day will be merely token IOUs.

☐ *IT DOES not pay to argue with the Corporation of London, as Bernard Kerrison, chairman of the doors-to-BMWs group Stratagem, has learnt. He parked his car in Finsbury Circus on a hot day last spring, bought a pay-and-display ticket and stuck it to his window. And returned to find a £60 penalty notice on his windscreen. The ticket had fallen off. Kerrison contacted the Corporation in the hope that it would show mercy. Rules is rules, they said. Pay up.*

In exasperation Kerrison demanded to inspect these parking rules. He was told he was not legally entitled to see them. "In certain totalitarian regimes, citizens can be charged and found guilty of breaking laws which they are not permitted to know about," Kerrison tells me. "Well, London is just such a place."

Taken to Hart

A STERN defence of Michael Hart, departed director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies, by his temporary replacement, David Harris, at a relaxed briefing with a few specialist financial magazines. Hart, for 28 years head of Foreign & Colonial Management until he quit in December, left the trade body after just two months complaining of ill-health.

"He's taken a great deal of personal criticism to heart," said Harris, no pun, I assume, intended. "It's undoubtedly affected his health. He couldn't give the necessary time to the job and thought it better to step aside now and not let these pressures build up...there's no hidden agenda. He wasn't forced out although his views didn't exactly coincide with everybody's." Harris said he was responding to press speculation. But my source says the odd thing was that no one had actually asked the question.

MARTIN WALLER



Michael Hart: quit after two months of ill-health

Nor.Web aims to plug communication gap

BY CHRIS AYRES

NORTEL and United Utilities yesterday launched a global offensive against rival telecoms companies by forming a joint venture that will provide access to voice and data services through electricity cables.

The joint venture between the networks provider and the multi-utility, called Nor.Web, claims that it will be able to target up to 35 million customers globally with a maximum first-year investment of only £20 million. It argues that costs will be reduced because its infrastructure and customer relations are already established.

The joint venture hopes to float in London, although no official plans have yet been announced. It has already made distribution agreements with several utility companies in Germany, Sweden, Singapore and the Netherlands, and says it is in discussions with many more.

Nor.Web has developed a "black box", containing a miniature PC that will link in to electricity sockets. Data and voice signals will then be pumped at high speed from local basestations through the electricity cables.

John Beckitt of United Utilities, who takes the chairmanship of Nor.Web, said that up to 2,000 households and businesses were expected to be using its services by the end of the year, adding that the company hoped eventually to corner 15 per cent of the market. He said: "This is a low-cost and high-return investment." However, it is not yet clear how Nor.Web's services will be priced. Steve Pusey of Nortel will become chief executive.

At present, it is impossible to pump data at high speed through the aging copper telephone wires that connect most households and businesses to their local basestations — although many commercial solutions, such as ADSL, are being developed.

Nor.Web's "black box" will allow connection to the Internet at up to 20 times the speed of a conventional PC and modem. Eventually, it will also be able to provide Internet telephony services, which are expected by some analysts to represent a third of all voice traffic by 2000.

In addition, the "black box" could eventually be connected to household devices such as cookers, central heating systems, and burglar alarms, allowing them to be controlled remotely. In time it could also abolish the need for electricity meter-readers, and provide Web TV services.

CCR seeks offers for a slice of Deep Pan Pizza

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CITY Centre Restaurants, the Garfunkel's and Caffé Uno group, is to canvass offers for its 54 high street Deep Pan Pizza units after receiving an unsolicited approach. Industry sources cited Queensborough Holdings, the caravan park operator, as the likely suitor.

Poor trading at those sites caused CCR to issue a profit warning in January, although James Naylor, chief executive, yesterday said that the brand's problems had largely been solved and he would sell only if able to achieve the £16.5 million book value.

The 35 Deep Pan units in leisure parks will still sell pizzas, but will be revamped and renamed. If the high street sites fail to sell in one go, 29 will be rebranded as Caffé Uno and Garfunkel's and the rest sold piecemeal.

Mr Naylor was speaking as he unveiled a 3.6 per cent rise in 1997 pre-tax profits, to £17.5 million, and earnings per share of 6.73p (6.58p). Excluding exceptionals and the effect of property disposals, profits were 12 per cent higher, at £17.8 million. Turnover was 25 per cent better, at £166 million, although Deep Pan restricted the like-for-like improvement to 2 per cent. A 2.35p final dividend makes 2.8p (2.5p).

The group opened 51 restaurants in 1997, taking its total to 281, and expects to open a similar number this year, many of them under the fledgeling Wok Wok, Frankie & Benny's and Est Est Est brands. Among 1997's openings was a Garfunkel's in a Forte Posthouse hotel.

CCR is also to launch a new Chinese brand, based on a US concept, in June.



PETER TRIEVNOR

Rolf Börjesson, Jeremy Lancaster and Michael Hartnall, finance director, reported a 12 per cent rise in underlying profit

Rexam rejects return of funds in favour of deals

BY MARTIN BARROW

REXAM, the packaging company that has undergone a radical restructuring, is shunning the City's current preference for cash handouts and share buybacks, opting instead to search for acquisitions.

The company yesterday effectively scuppered any lingering hopes of a £1.5 billion distribution to shareholders. Rexam has raised £344 million through a series of disposals that have significantly reshaped the business over the past three years. Gearing is just 9 per cent and the interest charge is covered 25 times.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said: "The board has examined the various options, including a major share buyback programme, but currently believes that a better route to long-term profitable growth is to use the funds for acquisitions." Rexam has already announced some smaller purchases this year, including 33 per cent of Der Kwei, an Asian cosmetics packaging group, for £25 million plus £33 million of debt, and Envelope Specialists, in Australia, valued at £10 million.

Rexam has regrouped into seven sectors, focusing on high-performance packaging and coated films and papers. Under the Octagon disposal programme, due for completion by July 1, a total of 21 businesses have been sold with combined 1996 sales and losses of £262 million and £5 million respectively. The sale of underperforming businesses is intended to lift the return on net assets to 25 per cent within three years. In 1997 the return on net assets rose markedly to 24.5 per cent, from 17.6 per cent.

Underlying pre-tax profits rose 12 per cent to £190 million last year. Rexam said yesterday. Adjusted earnings were up 10 per cent at 24.6p. The group estimates that, but for the strong pound, operating profits, which rose 7 per cent to £195 million, would have increased a further 5 per cent.

Rolf Börjesson, chief executive, said the speciality food packaging sector produced a good improvement over the previous year, albeit from a low base after disposals. Industrial packaging performed strongly, while healthcare enjoyed good growth in pharmaceuticals and emerging markets. Beauty packaging had a good year, despite the adverse impact of the strong pound.

Rexam also announced that it would delay the payment of the final dividend until next year in order to minimise irrecoverable advance corporation tax. As ACT is due to be abolished in April 1999, the company is enhancing what would otherwise have been an unchanged dividend for 1997. The enhanced final dividend of 6.5p a share is due on April 6, 1999. There is a share alternative payable on June 8, 1998.

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AMV sells stake in Leagas to aid expansion

BY JASON NISSÉ

ABBOTT Mead Vickers (AMV), the advertising group, is selling its 30 per cent stake in Leagas Delaney, a rival agency, for £4 million in a move that will allow Leagas to expand worldwide.

Peter Mead, the chairman of AMV, said the decision would allow Leagas to proceed with expansion plans, which are linked to the agency's relationship with Adidas, the sports goods group. Leagas recently opened an office in San Francisco.

AMV is solely focused on the UK, having an international relationship with BBDO, which is part of Omnicom, the US marketing services group that has a 26 per cent stake in AMV.

It is now expected that Leagas will strike a deal with another strategic partner within the advertising industry. AMV has an agreement that if Leagas is sold to the third party before the end of April 2000, AMV receives a share of any profit.

The group enjoyed a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £16.3 million last year, largely due to the growth in AMV's marketing services operation. Earnings per share rose similarly to 13.2p and a final dividend of 4.5p makes a total of 6.5p (5.5p).

The results were affected by new accounting requirements for the company to make a £1 million-a-year provision to cover AMV's share incentive scheme, which should be worth at least £5 million for 70 senior staff when it pays out in 2001.

AMV bought four businesses in public relations, direct marketing, design and media services, paying up to £25 million depending on future performance. Mr Mead said the group would expand through a mix of strategy and opportunism and was likely to make as many acquisitions in 1998 as it did last year.

Chelsfield raises its profits game 70%

CHELSFIELD, the property company that owns the Wentworth golf club and the upmarket Westbury hotels, has reported a 70 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £24.6 million, for last year. Net assets grew 20 per cent, to £648 million. Elliott Bernerd, chairman, said the rise in profit vindicated the company's decision to concentrate on a limited number of assets. There had been particularly good contributions from the leisure and retail parts of the business, he said.

Merry Hill, the shopping centre near Birmingham, remains the largest single asset in Chelsfield's portfolio, valued at £429 million. The company has increased its landholding on and around the site to about 200 acres. Mr Bernerd said the firm's £400 million centre development at White City, West London, was back on track after a delay over consent for a new motorway junction, and was expected to to open in 2001. Chelsfield is seeking consent for 900,000 sq ft at Paddington Basin, a second urban regeneration project in London.

CLS makes progress

SHARES in CLS Holdings, the London property group, rose 3p, to 147p, after it unveiled full-year pre-tax profits up by 1.7 per cent, to £10.5 million, and a 14 per cent rise in net assets, to 160.1p a share. CLS invested aggressively in London office property in 1995 and 1996 and now sees the greatest opportunities in refurbishing its portfolio, valued at £374.4 million. Gearing fell to 104 per cent, from 128 per cent. CLS said that it would try to cut it further in 1998 through disposals. A 3.45p final dividend makes 5.75p, up from 5.5p.

Vaux buys hotel group

VAUX, the brewer and pub operator, has unveiled the acquisition of three hotels in Ipswich, Norwich and Old Harlow, Essex, for around £20 million, as predicted by *The Times* two weeks ago. The properties, trading as Manor Hotels, have a total of 267 bedrooms and all three sites have leisure and conference facilities. They will become part of Vaux's Swallow Hotels division. Shareholders in Manor can opt to receive consideration in Vaux shares. The purchase price includes the assumption of £3 million of debt.

Dawsongroup drives on

DAWSONGROUP, the transport group, raised pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits from £7.23 million to £8.61 million in the year to the end of December on sales up 11 per cent to £55.4 million. Earnings rose by 24 per cent to 18.1p out of which the total dividend for the year rose from 6p to 6.7p after payment of a final of 4.6p a share, up from 4p. The company says it will "continue to pursue organic growth and judicious bolt-on acquisitions as opportunities are identified." The shares rose 5p to 255p.

Bridport nets new sales

BRIDPORT, the old Dorset fishing nets company that is transforming itself into a defence group, raised pre-tax profits by 72 per cent to £1.39 million in the six months to January 31 on sales up 35 per cent to £12.33 million. Earnings rose 45 per cent to 4.57p out of which the half-year dividend rises 11 per cent to 2p a share. David Sébire, chairman, said: "The group is focused on the aviation and defence markets. We are well placed to continue the growth of these businesses."

Clarkson's Asia alert

HORACE CLARKSON, whose subsidiary Clarksons is one of the world's largest shipbrokers, said 1998 profits will be adversely affected by a drop in trade caused by the economic crisis in South East Asia. It believes there will be significant over-supply in the dry bulk market. The total dividend for 1997 is unchanged at 4p a share, with a 2.5p final, after reporting a fall in annual pre-tax profits to £3.2 million from £3.9 million. Earnings fell to 8.82p a share from 10.8p.

Breedon dividend up

BREEDON, the quarrying and housebuilding company based in Derbyshire, lifted 1997 pre-tax profits to £3.4 million from £2.7 million in 1996. Earnings rose to 8.32p a share from 6.47p. The total dividend is increased to 5.8p a share from 4.83p, with a 3.7p final. Turnover rose to £14.9 million from £12.1 million. The company said it is to expand the geographical area of its housebuilding division. The shares rose 4p to 111½p.

Fittings edges ahead

BRITISH FITTINGS, the pipeline equipment and high pressure water products group, lifted 1997 pre-tax profits to £4.86 million from £3.57 million. Earnings were 11.84p a share, up from 7.64p. The final dividend is 3.45p a share, lifting the total 21 per cent to 5.1p. The company said operating profits rose 8 per cent to £5.56 million, despite difficult trading in the second half when margins on new contracts deteriorated. The shares rose 5p to 92p.

Pub chain disposal helps lift Glenchewton 145%

GLENCHEWTON, the household goods supplier, yesterday revealed a 145 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, excluding exceptionals, to £4 million for last year (Lucy McDonald writes).

The group, best known for its stainless steel cookware, disposed of Country Style Inns, its public house operation, in April, making an exceptional pre-tax profit of £1.7 million. It is looking for acquisitions in the household goods sector.

Earnings per share in 1997 rose to 12.6p from 5.3p. The final dividend of 1.3p brings the total dividend to 2p.

Car dealer gets Derby site for £7m

BY JASON NISSÉ

DC COOK, the motor dealership group, has paid £7 million to its upmarket rival, Pendragon, for a site in Derby that has half a dozen car franchises, including Rover, VW, Fiat and Nissan.

Though Pendragon lost £713,000 running the 6.9 acre site last year, Derek Cook, chairman of DC Cook, is confident he can turn it around. "It's the best site I have bought in 30 years in the motor trade," he enthused.

DC Cook has already secured three of the franchises on the site — which is between two main roads — and aims to expand the used car operation. Turnover is currently £40 million and Mr Cook is confident that this figure can be doubled.

Elsewhere, Car Group, the motor supermarkets operation, said that it had identified a location for a new operation on the M1 motorway between Sheffield and Nottingham.

This brings to three the new locations being opened up by Car Group this year — the others being in Middleton on the outskirts of Manchester and one in London.

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National Mutual
The Pensions Specialist

168TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 168th Annual General Meeting of National Mutual Life Assurance Society will be held at the registered office of the Society, The Priory, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 2DW on Monday 20 April 1998, at noon for the following purposes:

to receive the Directors' report, the accounts for 1997 and the auditors' report thereon;

to re-elect Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard and Mr C B Russell who are retiring as Directors by rotation in accordance with Article 52 and Mr G D Pearce who was appointed with effect from 15 July 1997 and offers himself for re-election in accordance with Article 58;

to re-appoint Price Waterhouse as auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Members qualified to vote at the above meeting are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on a poll in their place. A proxy need not be a member of the Society. To be valid, the instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed, or a notarially certified or office copy of such power or authority, shall be deposited at the registered office of the Society as shown above at least 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting.



ACCOUNTANCY

A look back from the future

Robert Bittlestone imagines the 2001 meeting of the Institute of Chartered Performance Assessors

Margaret Beckett, former President of the Board of Trade, reminded the institute's annual meeting of the success of the initiative she launched at a Pirc conference three years earlier. It is hard to remember that in 1998 there were still widespread doubts about the central tenets of the "Tomorrow's Company" project and other aspects of the stakeholder debate. The corporate response then to the idea that businesses should be accountable to employees, customers, suppliers and the local community, as well as to shareholders, was frequently apoplectic. Indeed, bodies like the Hampel Committee went on record as recommending the opposite.

The onset of the recent recession, culminating in the millennium meltdown when global equities tumbled as arsonists destroyed the Dome, awakened industry leaders to an aspect of the debate that had been ignored.

Most of the opposition to stakeholder accountability had been on the basis of doctrine. Embracing performance reporting of this type had been seen as the start of a slippery slope towards workplace socialism. However, during 1998 an increasing number of large businesses began to reconsider their position. From a commonsense standpoint, their financial bottom line was in any case driven by aspects such as customer satisfaction, staff motivation and on-time supplier deliveries.

The first wave of stakeholder-compliant annual reports emerged in the spring of 1999, summarising the results of the 1998 financial year from this broader perspective. Among the most interesting was a publication from a large high street financial services provider. At that firm's annual stakeholders' meeting, the chairman indicated that responsibilities and performance measurements were regarded as interdependent and of critical importance.

"Trying to run a business with only financial yardsticks is like trying to make a car go faster by pushing up the speedometer with your finger" he said. Not everyone understood this racy metaphor: the AA subsequently answered a record number of unusual roadside incidents, while hospital casualty departments noted an increase in index finger glass trauma injuries.

But the accountancy profession gingerly galvanised itself into action. A survey among its members revealed that the root of most concerns was that of professional insecurity. Thanks to Father Luca Pacioli, the principles of double entry and accounting measurement had been quietly maturing for about 500 years and the resulting body of knowledge could be gently acquired, often by osmosis, over a five-year apprenticeship. But nothing in that syllabus prepared the practising accountant for the challenges of measuring employee motivation, supplier commitment or customer satisfaction. Indeed, even something as simple as the measurement of company manpower levels was widely regarded as fraught with hazard.



Tomorrow's Company interests Robert Bittlestone

In late 1998 a series of joint conferences took place between the main accounting institutes and the Foundation for Performance Measurement. With the support of the RSA and several leading business schools, a new inter-disciplinary examination syllabus was devised in performance assessment. Drawing elements from statistics, operational research, accountancy, behavioural psychology, computing and business studies, this new discipline rapidly captured the imagination of business leaders. As head-hunters began to advertise for performance assessment directors (PADs), so the traditional role of the finance director became increasingly regarded as a specialist discipline. PADs were articulate, persuasive and politically correct. Businesses realised that having a PAD on the board was a passport to cocktail parties at No 10 and achieving a significant level of comfort with institutional fund managers.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the Institute of Chartered Performance Assessors' first birthday. From inauspicious beginnings it is encouraging to look back on a year in which we can say with some confidence that we have cut through the false dichotomy of "shareholder v stakeholder". Just as with the global environment, we have woken up to the fact that we are all in this business world together. Interdependence does not have to preclude initiative, and "exploitation" does not have to imply cynical indifference to the enlightened co-operation that is what makes modern businesses tick.

The author is managing director of Metaprads and a founding member of the Foundation for Performance Measurement.

Questions of tax and moral high ground

TO A good Scots son of the manse, like the Chancellor, tax avoidance is a disgrace that must be stopped. So it was no surprise that last week's Budget revealed that a consultation document on a general anti-avoidance rule (Gaar) was on its way. It is the sort of measure that any right-minded moralist can applaud. It will stop all those fat cats scuttling their assets offshore, for example. But the difficulty is that avoidance is legal. There is no law which suggests that you have to pay more tax than you should. Little old ladies insisting that their building society interest comes to them gross rather than net are avoiding tax. But no one, even a Calvinist Scot, is going to suggest that hellfire and damnation is what they deserve for doing so.

So tax avoidance is about degree and who is doing it. One man's tax planning is another man's tax avoidance. Put your cash into a Pep and that is a shrewd and generally applauded move, whereas a multinational indulging in some fancy footwork on the transfer pricing front might be seen as trying it on once too often. As a result, tax avoidance is almost impossible to define, as the Canadian experience shows. Over there anti-avoidance provisions have been in force for almost ten years and they have yet to agree in the courts on what legally constitutes abuse, misuse or tax benefit and other definitions.

But if you are a politician a Gaar is a very attractive solution. You can introduce one and then just sit back knowing that you have taken the correct moral position. The chaos and wrangling that will ensue can simply be seen as the rightful punishment for the sinners who take part in trying to avoid paying their taxes. On the other hand, anyone taking a view of the practicalities of a Gaar may not come to the conclusion that having the best lawyers locked in arguments for decades is the best way to try to make the borderline between tax cheats and informed taxpayers clearer. After all, we do have a tax law rewrite project under way and the end result ought to be a clearer and simpler view of the legislation that could make a Gaar superfluous.

There is also the question of resources. The Inland Revenue is still working hard at the introduction of self-assessment for ordinary taxpayers and soon companies. Trying to make a Gaar work would involve even more resources. Politicians rarely provide such resources. The introduction of a Gaar would also create great uncertainty. No one could rely on the existing laws any more. Every move to try to minimise the tax due would be a step into the unknown. Anyone trapped by the Gaar would not have anything resolved until lawyers had wrangled over it.

So the idea of a Gaar is unworkable without some sort of clearance system. In America, where companies have operated under self-assessment for years, this goes without saying. Even under current UK legislation American companies are often bemused that you cannot get a same-day ruling on the tax effects of a business decision in Britain. But they have worked under self-assessment for a long time. The culture has changed. If you are responsible for your own tax affairs then the tax collectors have to have made it clear what the consequences of any particular commercial transaction will be.

But over here the cultural changes have not taken place. The arrival of a Gaar without a simultaneous arrival of a fast, informed and fully geared-up clearance system would be a disaster. Commercial decisions operate under deadlines that involve hours and minutes rather than days. Informally the Revenue has let it be known that a 30-day limit for clearance decisions would be far too short a timescale for full consideration of complex transactions. By that time, businesses may have gone elsewhere. The Netherlands, where the tax authorities are famed for providing certainty in taxation, is stuffed with multinationals' headquarters. If a Gaar is to be introduced then all the consequences need to be understood. The creation within the Revenue of a profit centre devoted to providing companies with same-day, and paid for, tax rulings alone would bring cultural change that the Government may not have thought about. A large, extremely high-powered and profitable unit within Somerset House is probably not what Gordon Brown had in mind.

But the Government has shown sensitivity to consultation. The Chartered Institute of Taxation is preparing a comprehensive examination of the issues involved. There is much more than simple moral questions about tax to be answered in the coming months.



ROBERT BRUCE

Lessons from Wodehouse

IN SPITE of evidence to the contrary in the Budget, the Inland Revenue has a good sense of humour. When Tony Ring, one-time president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, retired, he decided to devote his efforts to the joys of P. G. Wodehouse. He is, for example, treasurer of the P. G. Wodehouse Society (membership inquiries to 01494 864848). But he has also written a book, *You Simply Hit Them With An Axe*, about Wodehouse's prolonged, but successful, disputes with the tax authorities. HM Inspectors of Taxes have taken such an interest in the topic that they are publishing extracts in their own magazine, the snappily titled *Quarterly Record*.

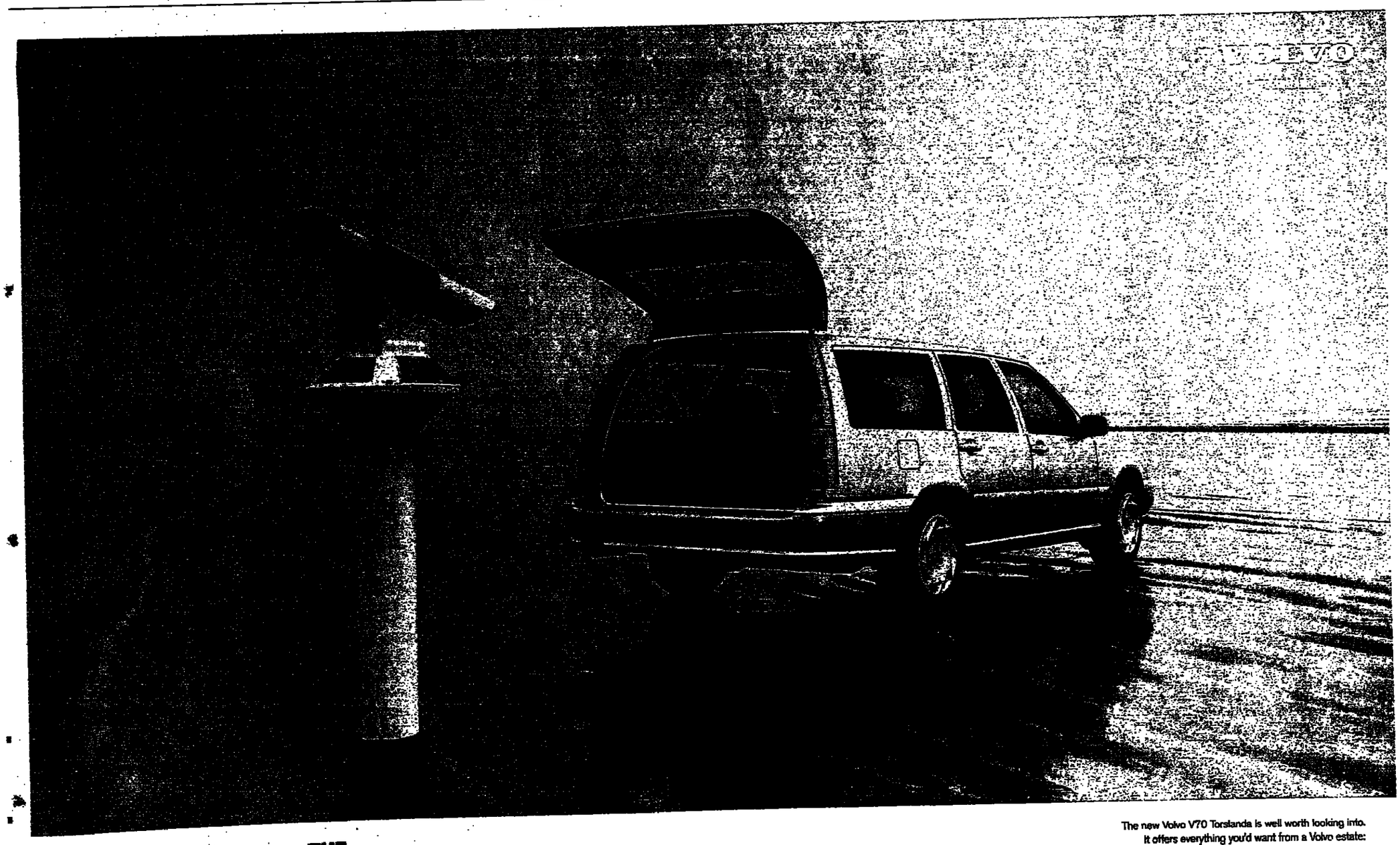
Work undone

JOHN ANDREWS, the esteemed president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, was furious after the Budget last week. And with good reason. He is a few weeks off retirement from Coopers & Lybrand and has now been snubbed by the Chancellor. In 1977 some diplomatic negotiations by Andrews led to a great injustice dealt out in the 1974 Budget being reversed. Andrews had come to the aid of expatriate workers, such as engineers in Saudi Arabia, who found themselves paying far too much tax. But last week his work was all undone. "They've got rid of it," said an outraged Andrews, "all because naughty people with large incomes had been trying to get bonuses into periods where they would qualify for 100 per cent deductions." This is what happens when you retire. The next generation comes along and dismantles all your good work.

Battle royal

THE battle between the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Halifax over the fate of Birmingham Midshires Building Society has an added piquancy for accountants. The head of the Halifax, Jon Foulds, used to be the boss of George Mathewson, now head of the Royal Bank of Scotland, back in their venture capital days at 3i. There may well be personal agendas at stake here as well as business ones.

ROBERT BRUCE



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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	131.61	150.30	+ 0.07	
On 08/4 to Mar 20	140.18	140.18		
UK Equity Safeguard	112.21	120.00	- 0.06	2.02
On 08/4 to Mar 30	[illegible]	[illegible]		
US Eq Safeguard	9499.00	10087	..	..
Cash	956.46	961.26	.	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	424.10	456.20	- 1.70	1.48
UK Small Cos	93.66	100.16	- 0.17	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	114.22	122.15	+ 0.30	1.89
Geared UK Index	2872.96	3032.88	+17.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	84.39	87.47	- 0.04	6.56
Monthly Inc	46.25	49.51	+ 0.26	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	332.73	352.70	+ 4.50	
American Smll	242.98	259.86	+ 1.86	
3G US Index	2631.79	2772.95	+27.00	4.00
European Gen	393.70	416.40	- 8.00	0.08
European Strat	167.63	179.27	+ 3.59	
Japan Gen	98.75	104.70	+ 1.30	
Asia Pacific	67.40	71.88	+ 0.31	1.09
Pacific Strat	104.66	111.92	+ 0.29	
Smaller Chess	210.45	225.07	+ 2.94	
Latin America	107.60	115.07	- 0.99	
Int Growth	181.61	194.25	+ 2.18	0.11
Balanced Eurmed	175.60	182.00		1.77
Global Strategy	49.01	52.40	- 0.55	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	974.88	1037.00	+ 1.00	2.20
General Inc	790.10	840.50	+ 0.70	2.20
UK Growth Acc	669.70	712.40		2.18
UK Growth Inc	423.30	450.30	+ 0.10	2.18
Higher Inc Acc	1264.00	1344.00	+ 4.00	4.06
Higher Inc Inc	648.70	690.10	+ 2.00	4.06
Gilt Fxd Int Acc	239.10	252.40	- 0.30	5.59
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	97.16	102.60	+ 0.20	5.59
Nth America	473.80	504.00	+ 5.30	
Europe	553.30	588.60	+ 9.50	0.48
Far East	133.20	141.70	- 0.20	2.04
Brit Fndmntls Acc	168.00	178.70	- 0.20	3.95
Brit Fndmntls Inc	106.20	112.90	- 0.10	3.95
Global Opps	132.00	140.40	+ 0.80	0.22
Balanced Acc	82.01	87.24	+ 0.26	2.11
Balanced Inc	75.04	79.82	+ 0.24	2.11
Japan Acc	32.24	34.29	+ 0.09	
Pac Basin Acc	334.10	373.50	+ 0.60	2.06
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	146.80	155.50†	+ 0.30	5.75
High Inc Equity	250.90	268.30†	+ 0.90	3.76
Worldwide Bond	268.50	284.80†	+ 0.80	3.52
American Growth	586.60	628.50†	+ 5.40	0.28
Asian Pacific	237.60	254.10	+ 1.70	0.43
Assets & Earnings	403.60	431.70	+ 0.90	2.37
Euro Capital Acc	289.10	309.30	+ 6.80	0.64
Euro Inc	44.02	46.83†	+ 0.03	0.88
General	366.50	389.90†	+ 0.80	2.52
Global Opps	85.53	90.99	+ 1.03	0.35
Japan	74.45	79.63	+ 0.10	
Managed Inc	56.31	59.89†	+ 0.22	4.26
Masterfunds	206.60	221.20	+ 0.60	1.00
US Emerging Cos	241.80	258.60	+ 1.50	
Ethical	105.18	111.80	- 0.30	1.64
International	156.90	166.90	+ 1.90	0.58
Dividend & Growth	92.30	98.22†	+ 0.37	3.49
Global Gwth & Sec	80.02	85.34	- 0.03	2.57
Latin America	79.44	84.51	- 0.42	0.79
Capital Reserve	155.50	155.70		4.49
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	131.50	139.80	+ 0.10	1.36
Equity Income	181.80	193.40†	+ 0.30	3.23
Extra Income	333.30	353.90†		4.28
Smaller Cos	111.30	118.40†	+ 0.50	1.77
International	147.50	156.90	+ 1.20	0.75
ABERDEEN PROLIFIC UT MGRS LTD				
Enq 0345 686 666 Dlg 0800 833 580				
Amer Opp Acc	409.66	431.54	+ 2.28	
Emg Mkts Inc	82.52	86.16	+ 0.03	
Ethical Inc	99.32	105.09	+ 0.93	0.33
Euro Gwth Acc	138.97	146.66	+ 1.99	
Euro Spec Opps Acc	145.64	154.11	+ 1.42	
Extra Inc Inc	251.25	265.16†	+ 1.36	3.61
Extra Inc Acc	345.72	364.86	+ 1.87	3.61
FE Emg Econ	83.27	88.11	- 0.26	0.86
Fixed Int Inc	29.94	31.32†	+ 0.09	7.60
Frontier Mk Inc	77.49	81.99	- 0.01	0.07
Fund Of Inv Inc	221.50	234.38	+ 1.35	7.72
Fund Of Inv Acc	469.24	496.54	+ 2.87	7.72
Gilt Inc Inc	50.93	53.09†	+ 0.06	6.66
Global Bond Inc	40.75	42.54		4.67
Global Inc Inc	33.71	35.47	+ 0.20	3.91
Global Inc Acc	51.81	54.52	+ 0.31	3.91
High Inc Inc	191.75	202.91	+ 1.36	3.38
High Inc Acc	254.48	269.31	+ 1.82	3.38
Japan Inc	138.95	147.04	+ 1.48	
Latin Amer Inc	69.86	73.70	- 0.44	0.01
Master Inc Inc	69.27	73.25	+ 0.16	2.34
Master Gwth Inc	63.57	67.27	+ 0.04	0.24
North Amer Inc	287.99	302.91	+ 2.96	
North Amer Acc	288.33	303.27	+ 2.96	
Pacific Inc	58.75	62.16	- 0.09	0.12
Prop Share Inc	101.05	106.93	- 0.14	1.06
Recovery Inc	119.87	126.78	+ 0.50	1.36
Recovery Acc	136.20	144.13	+ 0.58	1.36
Special Sit Inc	192.77	204.00	+ 1.17	0.86
Special Sit Acc	218.33	231.05	+ 1.33	0.86
Tech Inc	863.20	908.42	+11.70	
Tech Acc	863.20	908.42	+11.70	
UK Blue Chip Inc	129.00	136.13†	- 0.05	2.30
UK Blue Chip Acc	155.28	163.88	+ 0.07	2.30
UK Emg Co Inc	89.24	96.47	+ 2.00	0.38
UK Gwth Inc	79.84	84.04	+ 0.21	1.01
World Port Inc	100.62	106.47	+ 0.75	2.00
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2692.00	2810.00		
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property	109.30	116.20†		5.50
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	117.19	124.34†	+ 0.03	1.50
Income Builder Inc	108.70	115.64	+ 0.73	2.85
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Conctd Occ Pens	152.90	158.70		
Foundn Pers Pens	89.49	92.97		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	493.90	523.90	+ 1.90	
Bond	126.00	132.40	- 0.30	6.29
Brit Smlr Cos	120.20	127.90	- 0.35	1.79
Europe	421.70	447.10	+ 5.15	
Euro Smlr Cos	142.00	151.20	+ 0.35	0.20
High Income	76.15	81.01†	- 0.11	4.91
Income	466.60	496.40†		3.40
Japan	259.40	275.40	+ 2.25	
Latin American	109.40	116.40	- 0.50	
Pacific	93.07	98.37	+ 1.10	1.18
UK Smlr Cos	71.58	76.15	+ 0.35	1.28
Japanese Sm Cos	451.10	465.40†	+ 2.50	
Mngd Fd	271.00	297.30	+ 0.90	2.09
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	461.90	438.30		0.71
Capital Gwth	194.80	195.20		2.16
Wealth Opps	255.40	270.10		0.81
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4600				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.30	101.30		6.76
Cash Acc	133.20	133.20	- 0.10	6.76
Income	810.20	864.20	+ 2.80	3.42
Income Builder	92.16	98.14†	+ 0.29	4.03
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	125.10	133.10	- 0.40	1.60
500	592.80	629.50†	+ 1.10	1.58
General	473.30	505.60†	+ 1.50	1.16
Property	273.10	293.00		5.59
Trustee	329.50	350.50	- 0.90	1.75
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	212.20	226.20†	- 0.50	1.10
FTSE 100	153.50	163.01	- 0.40	1.39
Growth Acc	656.30	705.40	- 2.40	1.14
Smaller Cos	66.92	71.52	- 0.15	1.86
Smaller Cos Acc	93.51	95.54	+ 0.17	1.95
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	263.60	279.00	+ 2.60	0.02
American Growth	132.53	135.10	- 2.10	
Japan	92.71	97.39†	- 0.45	
Japan Acc	93.77	59.61	- 0.45	
Japan Spec Sits	42.35	45.35	- 0.22	
Portfolio	241.20	256.50	+ 2.20	0.52
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Mstrmkd Income	59.97	61.43†	+ 0.09	6.53
Mgd Gwth & Inc	50.45	52.45	+ 0.07	4.50
Managed Growth	52.33	56.31	- 0.02	0.50
Barclays Global Investors Funds				
Enquiries 0800 731 2443				
Income Funds				
Distribution	141.60	142.50†	+ 0.20	4.52
Equity Income	197.90	211.00	+ 0.70	3.52
Gilt & Fxd Int	54.73	56.05†	+ 0.05	5.76
Intl Fxd Int	99.67	103.56	+ 0.10	5.03
Intl Fxd Int Acc	129.40	133.70	+ 0.10	5.03
Growth Funds - UK				
UK Growth	609.40	645.20	- 1.80	1.17
UK Growth Acc	609.40	645.30	- 1.80	1.17
Growth & Inc	621.90	662.50	- 1.70	1.17
Growth & Inc Acc	1384	1429	- 3.00	1.17
Growth Funds - Overseas				
Euro Growth	297.30	324.00	+ 2.10	0.23
Euro Growth Acc	314.07	332.90	+ 2.80	0.23
Far Eastern Gwth	120.30	129.60	+ 0.95	0.47
Far East Gth Acc	205.30	219.40	+ 1.50	0.47
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	206.60	218.00	+ 1.90	
Amer Smlr Cos	187.90	192.50	+ 2.20	
Eastern	179.50	187.90	+ 1.20	0.30
Equity Income	143.30	159.51	- 0.40	4.00
European Growth	616.20	648.30	+ 2.20	0.80
Europe Select	499.07	524.00	+ 2.20	0.60
German Growth	138.20	145.40	- 0.17	0.50
Global Bond	74.56	78.43	+ 0.39	5.10
Global Growth	211.00	225.25	+ 2.00	0.10
Japan Growth	114.90	121.82	- 0.70	
Japan Sunrise	92.07	96.91	- 0.11	
Korea Trust	31.30	33.50	- 0.39	
Portfolio	199.07	211.30	- 0.50	1.60
-do- Accum	356.20	381.20	- 0.90	1.50
UK Growth	158.10	168.50		1.60
UK Smaller Cos	150.62	163.50	- 0.70	1.00
Select Managers	108.50	113.30	+ 0.90	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	111.50	118.60		
Special Opps Inc	63.67	67.73		
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6030				
Balanced Growth	216.70	215.50	- 2.60	0.74
-do- Accum	249.36	259.64	- 3.17	0.74
Smaller Cos	211.30	226.10	- 5.18	0.35
-do- Accum	239.64	244.62	- 5.76	0.35
Higher Yield	80.67	86.17	- 0.18	3.27
-do- Accum	130.10	136.44	- 0.50	3.27
American Gth Inc	148.90	155.11	- 3.02	
European Growth	230.81	249.91	+ 3.43	
-do- Accum	244.95	255.15	+ 4.01	
Mngd Ptflio Inc	65.93	69.41	- 0.59	1.19
-do- Accum	69.49	72.28	- 0.62	1.19
Intl Spec Sits	219.06	223.13	+ 2.50	
Pacific Gth	116.59	121.45	+ 1.41	0.94
UK Special	140.28	136.12	+ 0.29	2.47
-do- Accum	156.44	162.96	+ 0.32	2.47
Japan	37.22	38.77	+ 0.21	
Gilt & Fixed Int	111.48	115.50†	- 0.09	7.26
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	64.43	65.26†	- 0.04	6.47
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	246.30	259.30	- 0.60	1.31
UK Growth	311.10	327.40†	- 0.70	1.17
UK Income	216.20	227.60	- 0.60	2.97
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	313.50	332.00	+ 0.70	1.32
-do- Income Dist	178.10	188.80	- 0.50	2.68
-do- Accum	601.00	637.00	+ 1.60	2.68
Gilt & Fxd Inc	44.32	46.57†	- 0.11	4.94
Growth Units	378.00	403.20†		1.43
Income	191.40	201.40†	- 3.20	3.70
Intl Growth	256.60	272.60	- 3.60	0.27
North American	367.00	389.90	- 3.10	
Far East	202.00	216.80	- 0.70	0.98
UK Smaller Cos	308.00	329.40	- 0.50	0.98
European	138.40	147.10	+ 2.00	0.44
Japanese Growth	27.27	28.91†	+ 0.19	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	310.90	331.90†	+ 0.70	2.58
Europortfolio Pac	233.18	248.06	+ 3.97	0.10
Portfolio	105.76	113.57	+ 0.19	1.06
UK Income Inc	133.64	142.13†	- 0.04	3.82
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7456				
American & Gen	329.00	348.30†	+ 2.60	
European Inc	150.70	159.80	+ 2.30	0.14
Smaller Cos (4-1)	126.50	134.60†	- 3.60	1.59
Growth	797.60	848.60†	- 1.90	1.47
Income & Growth	667.10	709.70	+ 2.40	3.78
-do- Accum	1062.10	1129.90	+ 3.90	3.76
Japan & Gen	45.95	48.65†	+ 0.19	
Hallmark Gwth	1667.00	1737.00	+ 7.00	1.33
-do- Accum	2097.00	2185.00	+ 8.00	1.33
Special Sits	185.50	197.40	+ 1.30	1.44
High Yield	2179.00	2217.00	+ 6.00	3.28
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	125.67	133.66	+ 0.50	2.18
American Portfolio	185.20	196.67	+ 1.50	0.41
European Portfolio	201.31	213.74	+ 3.17	0.31
High Income	56.65	59.59	+ 0.08	6.28
Japanese Portfolio	44.79	47.48†	+ 0.15	
Pacific Portfolio	122.28	131.39	+ 0.58	1.14
UK Equity	130.50	139.12	+ 0.32	2.58
UK Equity & Bd	74.45	78.94	+ 0.18	4.85
UK Smlr Cos	61.67	65.96†	+ 0.03	1.74
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	1058.50	1074.50		3.23
Inv Fd Acc	1099.88	1116.50		
Fxd Int Sec Inc	167.55	168.23		7.61
Fxd Int Sec Acc	182.60	183.34	..	.
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	1028.15	1035.60		3.36
Investment Acc	4954.24	5029.12		
Fixed Int Inc	137.52	138.08		7.53
Fixed Int Acc	279.18	280.29		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	101.11	106.29	- 0.43	5.81
Beck Bio-Tech	43.30	46.69		
Acorn Ethical Tst	229.81	244.48		0.50
City Fin Accnts	100.14	105.18		2.51
City Fin Intl	95.86	101.98	- 0.87	.
Friars Hse Cap	439.59	467.65		2.02
Buckley Wrld Gth	139.74	148.12		
Utilities Fd	93.73	95.31	+ 0.71	3.15
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	52.00	56.17†	+ 0.33	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	111.66	118.73	+ 1.28	..
Dragon Growth	47.40	50.69	+ 0.16	1.15
Equity High Inc	134.82	142.66†	- 0.12	3.81
-do- Accum	204.49	216.39	- 0.18	3.81
Extra Income Inc	29.50	31.06	+ 0.04	5.70
Extra Income Acc	34.73	36.57	+ 0.05	5.70
European Gwth	99.76	105.57	+ 1.91	.
Evergreen	39.83	42.59	+ 0.24	
General Equity	155.27	163.87	+ 0.08	1.74
Japan Growth	30.46	32.43	+ 0.16	
Pedigree Gwth	98.30	104.02	+ 0.43	1.19
Ped Sm Cos Inc	49.77	51.61	+ 0.07	1.09
-do- Accum	52.51	55.57	+ 0.08	1.09
Retirement Inc	38.99	41.48	+ 0.02	4.34
Special Sits	65.32	70.24	.	1.95
UK & Overseas	77.13	81.62	- 0.77	0.29
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	91.49	95.30†	+ 0.35	3.14
Capital	114.72	119.49†	- 0.11	1.67
High Income	57.79	60.19†	+ 0.05	6.30
Top 50	86.54	90.04†	- 0.21	1.62
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	269.27	280.52		3.61
Long Gilt	52.94	55.11		4.71
Monthly Inc Plus	62.02	64.61		6.93
-do- Accum	76.07	79.25		6.93
Preference Share	60.12	62.63		6.22
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	185.18	192.92		4.99
Managed Fund	93.99	97.92		2.17
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.43	60.87		1.39
-do- Accum	69.87	72.79		1.39
UK & General	141.91	147.84		1.83
-do- Accum	190.18	198.12		1.83
UK Growth	281.21	292.96		1.34
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	326.74	340.39		0.39
Far Eastern Gth	96.15	100.17		0.28
Global Bond	71.70	74.70		5.13
Japan Growth	81.18	84.55		
North Amer Grth	345.10	359.52		
Oriental Growth	80.21	82.73		0.78
Worldwide Growth	91.84	95.68		0.27
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.80	93.80		6.63
Homeowners Fund	113.45	120.70†		1.95
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Consistent UT	48.38	51.63†	.	2.60
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	227.20	241.70	+ 0.30	1.12
Income	98.65	105.15	+ 0.18	3.21
European Growth	112.70	119.70	+ 1.80	.
Recovery	244.30	259.90†	+ 0.80	1.68
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1355.80	1376.10		3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	102.10	108.20	+ 2.20	0.29
Fellowship Tst	139.60	148.50†	+ 0.60	0.99
Income	393.30	418.30	- 0.50	3.32
-do- Accum	1087.00	1156.00	- 1.00	3.32
Smaller Cos	272.00	289.30	+ 1.30	0.64
-do- Accum	341.00	362.70	+ 1.60	0.64
Gth Portfolio	138.10	146.90†	+ 0.30	1.03
Mthly Inc Port	115.60	122.80†	+ 0.30	3.18
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1964.10	1989.70†		0.66
UK Small Cos	2496.80	2805.50		3.39
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	289.10	298.10		
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers 0171 954 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUI				
Amer Smllr Cos	223.60	237.80	+ 3.50	
Asian Growth	192.50	204.70	+ 1.70	0.30
Bond Income	110.70	114.70†	+ 0.32	6.70
European	287.50	305.80	+ 4.40	0.48
European Ptrs	149.20	158.70	+ 3.00	0.70
European Special	197.60	210.20	+ 2.30	
Gilt Yield	131.40	136.50†	- 0.20	6.10
Global Eqty Inc	154.10	163.50†	+ 0.90	1.40
High Yield	228.70	243.20	+ 0.20	3.80
Japan	277.20	294.40	+ 0.90	
Japanese Special	124.60	132.50	+ 1.10	
Money Market	103.98	103.98†	+ 0.02	5.90
North American	160.90	171.10	+ 1.70	
Smaller Cos	195.00	196.80	+ 0.90	0.80
Smlr Cos Dis	77.70	82.65†	+ 0.10	4.20
Tomorrows Co Et	1384.00	1383.00	- 4.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	70.50	75.00†		0.80
UK Index Inc	438.20	450.60	- 0.70	2.40
Bircham Tst	129.90	133.60†		1.40
Global Income	275.80	293.40†	- 1.20	2.78
Formerly Thornton				
European	493.70	518.50†	+ 7.20	0.30
Europe Bd	38.01	39.55†	+ 0.01	6.00
Energy	983.10	1025.40	+ 0.63	1.30
Global Em Mkts	78.54	82.24†	- 0.05	0.30
Japan Tst	58.03	60.82	- 0.45	
Little Dragons	75.15	73.36	+ 1.17	
Pac Amer Gwth	447.10	467.40	+ 4.66	0.00
Oriental Income	37.14	38.89†	+ 0.38	3.40
Preference	158.30	165.70	- 0.30	7.20
Tiger	200.10	209.50	- 2.74	
UK Blue Chip	122.20	127.80	- 0.60	1.10
UK Growth	944.40	988.80	- 0.25	1.30
UK High Yield	165.30	173.60	- 0.04	3.80
UK Mid-Cap	474.80	497.12	+ 1.03	1.00
UK Smlr Cos Div	97.86	102.40	- 0.27	5.50
UK Smlr Cos	158.80	166.20†	+ 0.60	0.10
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Commodities	27.40	29.13†	- 0.01	4.01
Enterprise	132.30	140.20	- 0.50	1.78
Equity Income	199.40	211.90†	- 0.40	3.02
European	92.01	97.42	+ 2.17	
Financial	89.34	94.92	+ 0.92	1.06
Growth & Inc	412.40	438.20†	+ 1.20	2.06
High Dist	252.10	267.60	+ 0.40	3.18
International	492.90	523.10	+ 6.50	
Intl Cap Inc	132.10	141.50	+ 1.10	1.91
Latin American	37.22	39.55	+ 0.61	
Mgd Gwth Port	110.70	115.90†	+ 1.30	0.63
Pacific	71.00	75.14	- 0.85	
Pref High Inc	27.68	29.41	+ 0.11	6.12
Tokyo	137.90	145.80	+ 1.10	
UK Smaller Cos	315.40	336.10	+ 2.60	1.64
Japan Sm Cos	228.30	241.70	- 2.20	
Nth Amer	600.50	638.30	+ 5.40	
UK Inc & Gth	373.30	396.50	+ 0.60	2.02
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Brit Directors Opps	132.80	141.90		0.91
Growth Acc	356.10	373.90		0.17
Income	726.30	764.50		4.06
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7561				
Endurance Fd	275.00	292.50		0.29
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	139.19	146.52	+ 1.76	1.18
Ethical Tst	62.01	65.27	+ 0.39	0.86
Far Eastern	227.33	239.29	+ 1.91	1.88
High Income	202.72	213.39		3.45
UK Index Trkng	76.63	80.67	- 0.14	2.13
Int Growth	148.63	156.45†	+ 1.14	1.28
North American	218.36	229.69	+ 1.79	1.23
Pelican	207.39	218.30	+ 0.14	2.33
Smaller Cos	86.50	91.05	+ 0.62	1.91
Special Sits	105.61	111.17	- 0.09	2.40
Tst of Inv Tsts	267.97	282.07	+ 1.96	1.59
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	183.34	194.52	+ 2.21	
Fd of Inv Tsts	68.45	73.05	- 0.56	0.11
High Income	50.20	53.23	- 0.05	9.19
Trust & Gl Opps	64.92	69.81	+ 0.62	
Zero Preference	50.35	53.95	+ 0.03	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	141.50	150.50	+ 0.480	1.76
Charities Sit	399.30	424.70	- 0.720	2.25
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	7.00
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	25.54	26.90	+ 0.05	4.70
Strategic Inc	31.59	33.00†	+ 0.03	5.11
Income Funds				
High Income	34.37	36.04†	+ 0.06	4.25
Income Plus	197.50	210.10†	- 0.40	3.31
European Income	72.50	76.92†	+ 0.77	1.19
Moneybuilder Gwth	46.44	48.77	+ 0.31	2.02
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	31.09	33.17	+ 0.34	
American	483.70	514.00	+ 7.40	
Amer Spec Sits	255.90	273.10	+ 2.40	
Japan Smaller Cos	17.50	18.70†	+ 0.15	
European	352.53	374.90	+ 6.20	0.28
European Opps	132.30	140.60	+ 2.20	0.40
Global Pro	46.27	49.17	+ 0.67	0.35
UK Growth	125.60	132.10	- 0.58	1.01
Growth & Inc	264.70	281.50	- 0.10	2.13
Intl PEP	68.310	72.740	+ 0.43	0.95
Japan Spec Sits	55.79	59.18	+ 0.28	
Japan	140.60	148.90	+ 0.80	
Managed Intl	479.80	510.00	+ 6.20	0.52
Moneybuilder Plus	82.08	87.70	- 0.59	0.70
Recovery	79.690	83.870†	- 0.12	1.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
South E Asia	159.90	170.30	+ 1.40	1.23
Special Sits	1036.00	1102.00	+ 5.00	1.02
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accnts Units	124.39	124.39	+ 0.02	7.09
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced	196.70	199.50†	+ 3.10	1.46
Fenchurch Pvt Inc	116.40	117.30†	+ 0.70	5.20
Cap Pfolio	210.20	211.60	+ 1.30	0.24
General Opps	188.60	189.60	+ 3.50	2.84
Growth Inc	54.08	54.73	+ 0.03	1.01
Private Portfolio	637.10	642.50†	+14.80	0.98
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 388 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	215.80	229.50	+ 0.40	
High Income	24.93	26.35†	+ 0.18	8.54
UK Smllr Cos	37.01	39.58	- 0.03	1.73
US Smaller Cos	584.70	621.70	+ 4.10	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	120.50	127.60†	+ 1.20	
-do- Accum	120.50	127.60†	+ 1.20	
Amer Smllr Cos	865.40	919.90	+ 4.60	
-do- Accum	884.10	939.70	+ 4.60	
Capital Tst	474.30	504.50†	+ 0.70	1.26
-do- Accum	708.30	753.50†	+ 1.10	1.26
Contl Smllr Cos	82.78	88.14	+ 1.33	
-do- Accum	88.82	94.58	+ 1.43	
Convertible	161.70	172.00	+ 0.50	5.83
-do- Accum	375.90	399.90	+ 1.20	5.83
Emerging Markets	61.79	66.01	+ 1.05	0.07
-do- Accum	62.32	66.58	+ 1.08	0.07
European	229.90	243.40	+ 3.80	
-do- Accum	244.40	259.98	+ 4.10	
Extra Income	544.70	579.50	+ 3.10	3.99
-do- Accum	907.20	965.10	+ 5.10	3.99
Financial	291.20	309.60	+ 4.20	0.94
-do- Accum	311.90	331.60	+ 4.40	0.94
Gilt Trust	65.41	67.44	+ 0.05	7.04
-do- Accum	107.70	111.10	+ 0.10	7.04
Health Fund Inc	302.10	321.40	+ 2.00	
-do- Accum	302.10	321.40	+ 2.00	
Income & Growth	316.60	336.80	+ 1.60	3.77
-do- Accum	528.20	561.90	+ 2.60	3.77
Intl Growth	527.30	560.40	+ 5.50	
-do- Accum	585.90	622.30	+ 6.10	
Japan & Gen	114.10	121.10†	+ 0.70	
-do- Accum	115.30	122.40†	+ 0.80	
Monthly Inc	278.00	293.80†	+ 1.20	3.98
-do- Accum	291.20	309.80†	+ 1.40	3.98
Managed Port Inc	147.60	155.40	+ 1.00	1.15
-do- Accum	162.30	170.60	+ 1.00	1.15
Quarterly Income	72.70	77.65†	+ 0.10	4.81
-do- Accum	88.80	94.85†	+ 0.12	4.81
Recovery	336.30	359.70	+ 3.30	
-do- Accum	397.00	424.60	+ 4.00	
UK Growth	87.93	93.54	+ 0.38	1.20
-do- Accum	97.10	103.30	+ 0.40	1.20
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	89.81	95.56	+ 0.90	
FP Am Smllr Cos	240.00	256.00	+ 0.80	
FP Asian Growth	176.50	188.20	+ 3.40	..
FP Australian	453.80	484.00	- 0.20	..
FP Equity Dist	656.90	700.60	+ 1.00	1.47
-do- Accum	1508.00	1599.00	+ 2.00	1.47
FP Euro Gth	466.70	497.80	+11.90	..
-do- Accum	511.40	545.40	+13.10	..
FP Intl Bond	56.64	58.93†	+ 0.10	3.89
FP Intl Gth Dist	49.64	52.94	+ 0.58	
-do- Accum	73.18	78.05	+ 0.86	
FP Pan Euro Acc	172.80	184.30	+ 1.60	0.04
FP Income	82.84	88.39	+ 0.22	3.88
-do- Accum	308.40	328.90	+ 0.78	3.86
FP Jap Smllr Cos	162.80	173.60	+ 1.20	
FP Monthly Dist	95.68	102.00†	+ 0.20	4.35
FP Stlg Deposit	101.20	101.20†		6.21
FP Tokyo	61.04	65.10	+ 0.09	
FP UK Focus	61.38	65.47	- 0.15	1.80
FP UK Growth	287.40	306.50†	+ 0.30	1.02
-do- Accum	596.20	635.90	- 0.60	1.02
Stewardship Dist	551.90	588.60	- 0.90	1.13
-do- Accum	706.70	753.80	- 1.10	1.13
Stewardship Inc Dist	86.66	92.43†	+ 0.32	4.22
-do- Accum	127.50	135.98	+ 0.50	4.22
Stewardship Intern	177.20	189.00	+ 1.40	..
-do- Accum	192.70	203.40	+ 1.40	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical Inc	144.40	145.10		2.34
Inst Ethical Acc	148.00	148.70		2.34
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	165.70	176.20	- 0.50	0.45
Opps Cap Gth Acc	164.20	174.60	+ 0.30	0.01
Cap Gth Inc Inc	146.00	155.30†	- 0.30	2.37
Cap Gth Inc Acc	160.00	170.20	- 0.30	2.37
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic	151.60	161.20†	+ 0.40	3.03
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac	169.00	179.70	+ 0.40	3.03
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 1067				
BANDA	428.80	451.40	+ 2.20	1.03
Cash	49.67	50.41†	+ 0.01	6.31
Income Portfolio	95.38	100.40†	+ 0.80	2.36
GA Equity Gth	318.70	339.00†	+ 1.60	1.09
GA European Gth	198.40	210.30†	+ 4.40	..
GA Japan Gth	74.55	79.18†	+ 0.71	..
GA Nth Amer Gth	343.30	361.40†	+ 4.50	..
GA Intl Gth	157.60	167.50†	+ 2.40	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 826 9431				
American Smll Cos	286.60	305.90	+ 0.90	0.11
European Gth	1063.00	1127.00	+25.00	0.21
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	65.82	69.61	+ 0.70	3.04
-do- Accum	76.63	81.26	+ 0.82	3.04
High Yield	55.65	59.01	+ 0.05	6.69
-do- Accum	67.46	71.27	+ 0.05	6.69
Income Inc	270.50	289.30†	+ 0.20	2.85
-do- Accum	323.70	346.30	+ 0.20	2.85
Intl Growth	441.60	467.70	+ 3.00	1.73
Intl Income	131.90	129.70	+ 1.10	1.82
Japan Growth	378.30	400.70	+ 1.10	
Orient Acc	146.20	156.00	+ 2.60	0.19
UK Blue Chip Inc	270.60	288.50	+ 0.70	1.05
UK Blue Chip Acc	491.20	523.70	+ 1.10	1.05
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	87.52	93.61	+ 0.49	1.24
US Growth	274.00	289.60	+ 4.80	..
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Digs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	84.77	90.36†	+ 0.21	1.34
Practical Invr Inc	157.85	168.62†	+ 1.16	2.85
-do- Accum	394.18	421.58†	+ 2.91	2.85
UK Index	257.66	258.95†	+ 0.46	2.40
UK Smaller Cos	289.69	309.83	+ 0.27	1.08
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.63	27.60	+ 0.03	6.78
High Income	48.88	52.18†	+ 0.16	3.13
UK Growth & Inc	222.42	236.92†	+ 0.56	2.15
Global Bond	27.07	28.05†	+ 0.04	5.63
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	44.84	47.96	- 0.13	
Global Managed	172.49	182.82	+ 1.20	0.71
Gold & Intl Res	78.87	84.35	- 0.21	
Global Utilities	216.55	231.07	+ 3.14	3.73
Overseas Funds				
American	279.18	295.33	+ 2.29	0.05
European	208.15	221.06†	+ 3.72	0.32
Euro Sel Opps	341.32	362.75	+ 6.00	
Amer Emerging	230.75	244.37	- 2.25	
Hong Kong	132.32	141.19†	- 1.28	2.56
Japan	137.79	145.96	+ 0.45	
Pacific Growth	157.43	168.52	+ 1.74	0.77
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	156.81	156.81	- 0.03	6.89
Managed Equity	329.23	335.29	+ 1.12	1.55
Long Term Bal	342.32	342.92	- 0.90	2.52
Med Term Bal	296.30	296.30	+ 0.53	2.85
UK Equity	422.41	422.41	- 0.13	1.57
UK Emerging Cos	216.68	216.68	+ 0.52	1.70
American	467.36	467.36	- 4.23	0.30
Japan	84.62	84.62	- 0.37	
European	538.71	538.71	+ 9.64	0.60
Index Linked Gilt	277.75	277.75	+ 0.24	2.47
Fixed Interest	211.53	211.53	- 0.45	6.11
Amer Emerging	515.92	515.32	- 0.68	
Pacific	140.14	140.14	+ 0.78	1.71
Emerging Mkts	132.72	132.72	+ 0.32	0.63
Index Stck Japan	93.53	93.53	+ 0.13	0.51
-do- Pacific Parr	132.47	132.47	+ 0.99	2.64
-do- Conl Europe	238.56	238.56	+ 4.16	1.07
Index Stck USA	292.37	292.37	- 2.92	1.33
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	155.56	163.87	- 0.51	
Med Term Bal	154.46	162.72	- 0.27	
Long Term Bal	153.77	162.56	- 1.06	
UK Equity	198.12	210.77	- 0.07	
UK Emerging Cos	152.50	160.73	- 3.26	
American	217.47	231.75	+ 2.11	
Japan	40.43	43.06	- 0.19	
European	214.35	228.23	+ 3.30	
Fixed Interest	110.32	117.32	- 0.23	
Index Linked Gilt	127.21	133.41	+ 0.11	
Deposit	150.11	150.11	- 0.02	
Brewer Unit Trusts				
SWH Intl	125.58	134.90	- 0.15	0.44
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Intl Gwth Inc	307.24		+ 3.44	
-do- Accum	322.87		+ 3.65	
European Gth Inc	212.36		+ 4.24	0.23
Amalgam Inc	256.97	276.20		
N Amer Sel Inc	651.02		+ 5.93	
Far East Gth Inc	264.75		+ 0.72	0.52
-do- Accum	276.16		+ 0.75	0.46
UK Devtl Inc	250.43		+ 1.19	0.99
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9868				
European	845.10	903.30	+18.00	
Gilt & Fixed	144.20	152.70	+ 0.40	5.02
Growth Equity	590.50	625.70	+ 1.80	0.93
Income Trust	215.00	229.60	+ 0.80	3.39
International	232.20	253.40†	+ 2.90	
Japan Trust	34.53	36.30	+ 0.75	
Nth American	498.70	532.20	+ 5.10	
Pacific	387.50	414.00	+ 3.80	0.44
Guardhill	841.10	878.60†	+ 2.40	1.08
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	28.70	30.59†	- 0.04	4.37
Global High Inc	93.42	97.81	- 0.10	5.10
Stlg Bond Pfio	117.86	123.33	+ 0.22	5.57
Gold High Pfio	150.15	159.65	- 0.13	3.83
European Pfio	219.98	233.93	+ 3.22	
Grand Mkts Pfio	94.59	100.55	+ 1.30	3.19
UK Eq Inc Pfio	204.67	217.62	- 0.25	2.61
-do- Accum	315.34	335.29	- 0.39	2.61
UK Opps	638.70	638.50	- 6.10	1.66
-do- Accum	731.20	777.40	- 7.70	1.66
Sh Dtd High Inc	172.84	178.43	- 0.19	4.76
UK Emerg Cos	313.00	333.10	- 0.50	3.12
Lead UK Smlr Co	402.80	410.00	- 0.40	3.76
Glob Pfio Tst	162.40	172.68	+ 2.75	0.80
-do- Accum	182.83	192.63	+ 2.80	0.93
Inc Chest Tst	128.36	136.22	+ 1.12	6.68
HK & China Tst	81.33	86.51	+ 1.62	1.45
Blue Chip Pfio	345.17	367.21	+ 0.79	1.46
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing 01924 671110				
Balanced Inc	74.80	79.32	+ 0.13	2.36
Balanced Acc	82.01	87.60	+ 0.14	2.36
Growth	47.21	50.28	- 0.02	1.38
Growth Acc	50.08	53.11	- 0.01	1.36
Income	44.23	46.51	- 0.02	3.16
Income Acc	49.92	52.43	- 0.02	3.16
Accumulation Tst	39.82	42.14	- 0.31	2.23
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries 01277 690 230 Dealing 01277 690 412				
UK Pref Acc	73.15	67.00	- 0.09	2.27
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries 0845 494345 Dealing 0845 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	494.03	528.05†	- 5.60	
Best of British	101.24	107.51	- 0.25	1.12
UK Spcial Sits	231.26	245.46†	- 1.11	0.18
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth	432.48	451.53	- 0.35	2.17
-do- Accum	1276.40	1329.26	- 0.78	2.17
High Income	47.48	50.75	- 0.04	3.26
Extra Income	390.42	415.20†	+ 1.02	4.53
Pref & Bond	58.74	61.83	+ 0.10	6.79
International				
Ethical	165.18	176.65†	- 0.21	1.40
Intl Income	384.12	407.45	+ 3.57	0.08
Global Bond	52.59	55.62	+ 0.10	3.15
Intl Port Tst	129.50	134.50	+ 0.43	0.01
Global Tech	221.73	235.41	+ 1.81	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	158.71	169.96	+ 0.72	0.21
European	943.90	1007.26	+20.39	
European Income	134.95	142.13	+ 2.68	2.41
Euro Smlr Cos	252.20	263.15	+ 0.23	
European Value	142.22	152.36	+ 1.42	
-do- Accum	144.26	153.74	+ 1.54	
Japan Trust	129.82	137.32	+ 0.04	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Smlr Cos	108.44	115.25†	+ 1.04	..
Pacific Smlr Cos	176.33	187.65†	+ 1.77	..
North American	471.71	499.82	+ 2.89	.
American Smaller	255.41	271.30	+ 1.82	.
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 520053				
British	183.67	192.33	+ 0.39	1.30
Capital	269.03	281.71†	+ 1.39	0.98
Dollar	719.61	753.51	+ 6.21	.
Enterprise Gth	594.73	622.75†	+ 1.05	0.59
European	407.48	426.68	+ 6.40	.
Far East	212.09	222.08	+ 2.02	0.98
Financial	1682.71	1762.00†	+14.22	0.86
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.33	30.50	+ 0.03	5.60
High Yield	181.32	189.91	+ 0.09	3.54
Income & Growth	238.91	250.17	+ 0.29	2.53
International	375.42	393.11	+ 2.66	0.29
Japanese General	137.60	144.08	+ 0.78	.
Japan Tech	60.13	62.97	+ 0.29	
Nat Resources	61.57	64.47	- 0.11	1.32
Portfolio	110.10	115.28	+ 0.41	2.08
Special Sits	259.43	313.60†	+ 1.88	0.69
UK Emerging Cos	150.32	157.40	+ 0.48	0.83
US Smaller Cos	205.66	215.35	+ 0.72	..
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income	917.60	979.30	+ 9.40	3.81
UK Growth	985.89	1051	- 2.00	1.13
High Income	161.70	172.60†	+ 0.10	4.79
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	882.60	932.90	+ 8.70	..
European Gwth	240.78	258.00	+ 3.30	..
Japan Gwth	208.60	219.50	+ 0.50	.
Japan Smll Cos	18.12	19.34†	+ 0.12	..
Asian	39.97	42.88	+ 0.53	0.99
Sing & Malay Gwth	45.04	48.14	+ 0.67	..
Hong Kong Gwth	158.50	168.90†	+ 2.10	0.79
Global Bond	20.65	21.76	+ 0.04	5.06
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	243.00	244.20	+ 0.30	2.19
Trade Index	156.38	160.50†	+ 0.10	2.16
THE FOOTSIE FUND	99.05	99.55	+ 0.06	1.50
Index Funds-International				
American Index	438.70	440.90†	+ 4.30	0.39
Eurotrack 100	298.60	298.10†	+ 4.50	0.40
Japan Index	49.86	50.11†	+ 0.01	0.30
Tiger Index	105.10	108.40	+ 1.00	1.42
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	59.02	61.54†	- 0.08	1.31
General Funds				
Managed Dist	111.40	116.30	+ 0.90	0.92
Managed	116.00	121.18	+ 0.90	0.92
Repeat Child Fnd	156.40	183.20		0.91
UK Growth	97.90	102.10	+ 0.10	1.06
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	121.80	127.00	+ 0.20	4.47
Gilt & Fixed Int	29.28	30.25†	+ 0.06	7.25
UK Inc & Gwth	69.60	72.69	- 0.09	1.96
UK Income	541.40	565.40	+ 0.50	3.13
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	86.31	89.30†	+ 1.00	..
Amer Smlr Cos	210.20	218.60	+ 1.10	..
-do- Accum	212.40	221.00	+ 1.10	.
Europe Gth	381.70	397.70	+ 8.20	.
-do- Accum	395.40	412.10	+ 8.60	
Euro Smaller Cos	67.55	70.33	+ 0.92	
French Growth	136.80	142.10†	+ 3.40	0.44
-do- Accum	148.10	153.80†	+ 3.70	0.44
H Kong & China	106.60	111.30	+ 1.80	0.84
Intl Growth	86.18	89.65	+ 0.88	0.47
-do- Accum	87.91	91.47	+ 0.90	0.47
Japan Gth	18.63	19.62	- 0.02	..
-do- Accum	18.83	19.62	- 0.02	
Japan Smaller Cos	18.73	19.55	+ 0.15	
Gbl Emg Mkts	92.38	96.48	+ 0.31	0.03
-do- Accum	93.04	97.17	+ 0.31	0.03
SE Asia	221.80	231.60†	+ 3.10	0.58
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond	49.73	51.27†	+ 0.06	5.12
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income	159.20	168.50	+ 0.30	2.42
UK Growth	165.90	175.60	+ 0.30	1.20
Euro Growth	142.00	150.70	+ 3.40	1.18
Slater Gwth	272.80	288.50		0.70
New Japan	58.53	62.15	+ 1.17	
Global Growth	115.20	121.90	+ 2.30	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	179.80	191.20	+ 2.40	..
Income	302.94	323.33	+ 1.27	3.71
UK Growth	116.99	124.45	+ 0.46	1.71
Intl Growth	107.80	114.67†	+ 1.28	..
Ecology	135.72	144.37	+ 0.88	0.52
European	303.22	321.95	+ 4.95	0.41
Far Eastern	256.60	272.90	+ 1.90	
UK Special Sits	80.62	85.98	+ 0.19	0.30
Fd of Inv Tsts	68.28	72.82	+ 0.72	0.37
High Income	69.77	74.41	+ 0.22	4.43
Financial Opps	68.35	72.90	+ 0.84	0.11
Growth & Income	57.63	61.41	+ 0.35	3.00
For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM				

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 558 8800				
Bridge Income	422.95	449.95	- 0.88	3.95
Exit Growth	138.77	147.63		0.46
Inc & Growth	103.44	110.04	+ 1.32	2.83
Smaller Cos	125.65	133.67	+ 0.43	1.22
Ever Spec Sit Inc	71.87	78.46	+ 0.22	1.50
Ever Spec Sit Acc	76.07	80.83	+ 0.23	1.50
Pensions Growth	83.21	87.24	+ 0.39	1.92
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	634.70	673.40†	- 0.70	1.29
UK Inc/Gth	863.90	702.10†	+ 1.39	2.74
UK Income	479.20	508.49†	+ 1.08	3.79
UK Income Acc	488.30	518.16†	+ 1.00	3.70
UK Sm Cos	369.80	395.30†		1.65
Euro Gwth	234.70	248.20	- 4.10	0.22
N Amer Gwth	170.22	180.08	+ 1.60	
Pacific Growth	6.89	7.39	+ 0.07	0.19
Emg Mkts Gwth	72.36	76.52	- 0.05	
Japan Growth	41.91	44.32	+ 0.10	..
Dealing 01277 842628				
Gwth Port Inc	90.96	98.19†	+ 0.72	0.55
Gwth Port Acc	92.92	98.26†	+ 0.73	0.54
Inc Port Inc	85.79	90.72†	+ 0.19	3.09
Inc Port Acc	99.40	105.12†	- 0.21	2.88
Venture Port	68.77	72.22	+ 0.08	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries 01222 448412 Dealing 01222 683512				
Equity Dist	849.40	849.40†	+ 0.30	1.69
-do- Accum	1803.00	1805.00†	+ 1.00	1.69
Equity Income	139.60	139.60†	+ 0.10	3.90
UK Tactical Allocn	95.74	95.74†	+ 0.33	5.49
European	217.10	217.10†	+ 3.30	0.05
Far Eastern	766.00	766.00	+ 2.70	
Fixed Interest	60.14	60.14†	- 0.06	7.00
Gilt	101.70	101.70	+ 0.18	5.60
Global Growth	93.91	93.91	+ 0.04	0.06
Intl Bond	48.02	48.02†	+ 0.06	4.86
Japanese	50.14	50.14	+ 0.11	
North American	321.80	321.80†	+ 2.80	0.07
Pacific Growth	83.62	83.62†	+ 0.67	0.89
Pacific Index	33.98	33.98	+ 0.18	2.86
UK Index	111.80	111.80	+ 0.20	2.16
UK Recovery	159.50	159.50	+ 0.30	1.03
UK Smaller Cos	208.80	208.60		0.95
US Index	127.70	127.70	+ 1.28	0.59
European Index	138.80	138.80†	+ 2.00	0.63
Japan Index	25.54	25.54	+ 0.06	0.04
Worldwide	126.90	126.90†	+ 0.50	0.99
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing 01452 371 623				
Growth	89.56	88.76	+ 0.06	1.95
Income	93.29	98.76	- 0.05	3.45
Far East	30.77	32.90†	- 0.15	0.69
North American	181.20	193.28	+ 1.40	
Global	104.20	111.40	+ 1.00	0.35
European	158.70	169.70†	+ 3.80	0.26
Japan	60.62	64.72	+ 0.14	
Intl Currency Bd	55.10	58.40†	+ 0.07	4.73
SE Asia	82.38	86.72†	+ 0.36	1.80
UK Cap Growth	144.60	154.60†		1.26
Recovery Trust	112.00	119.70	+ 0.20	2.13
Managed	84.31	90.17†	+ 0.41	1.31
Cash	50.50	50.50	+ 0.01	6.72
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk 01634 834 330 Dealing 01634 834 313				
Balanced	589.70	631.60	+ 1.80	1.49
-do- Accum	1443.00	1538.00	+ 4.00	1.49
Conti Euro Gth	115.20	121.30	+ 2.10	0.01
-do- Accum	124.80	131.40	+ 2.40	0.01
Extra Inc	417.10	443.80	+ 4.60	2.78
Extra Inc Acc	1201.00	1278.00	+13.00	2.78
FTSE 100 Inc	185.20	187.10	+ 0.40	1.62
FTSE 100 Acc	197.40	210.00	+ 0.50	1.62
German Gth	208.30	218.30	+ 4.20	0.08
-do- Accum	218.50	230.00	+ 4.40	0.08
Growth Port	889.50	946.30	- 5.20	0.25
-do- Accum	936.00	996.60	- 5.40	0.25
High Interest Inc	112.10	116.20†	+ 0.10	6.57
High Interest Acc	129.50	134.30	- 0.10	6.57
Hi Reserve Inc	135.70	145.50†	+ 0.20	4.78
Hi Reserve Acc	159.70	169.90	+ 0.10	4.78
Income Inc	818.10	870.40	+ 1.40	3.80
Income Acc	2408.00	2560.00	+ 4.00	3.80
Income Port	754.50	802.70	- 3.70	3.26
-do- Accum	890.20	947.10	- 4.40	3.26
Japan Growth	71.28	75.83	+ 0.71	..
-do- Accum	71.53	76.10	+ 0.72	..
Master Trust	87.53	92.12	+ 0.10	1.04
-do- Accum	102.80	108.40	+ 1.30	1.04
Millennium Acc	131.00	139.40		1.96
N American Gth	368.50	391.40	+ 3.60	0.50
-do- Accum	414.50	441.40	+ 4.00	0.50
Nthn Smr Co Inc	250.20	266.20	- 0.90	..
-do- Accum	255.40	271.90	+ 1.00	..
Pacific Basin	178.70	190.20	+ 3.70	0.51
-do- Accum	192.70	205.00	+ 4.00	0.51
Salary First Acc	125.50	132.20†	+ 0.20	1.08
Do until 2/10/98	109.20			
Small Cos Inc	827.30	880.40	+ 0.70	1.72
-do- Accum	881.00	927.40	+ 1.10	1.72
UK Eq Gth	239.10	254.40†	- 1.50	1.97
UK Ec Inc	188.70	200.80†	- 2.30	3.06
UK Growth	153.40	163.35	+ 0.10	1.39
-do- Accum	195.80	209.20	- 0.40	1.39
Worldwide Gth	458.00	485.20	+ 5.20	0.28
-do- Accum	674.90	718.00	+ 7.40	0.28
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
General	156.59	168.01	+ 0.36	2.00
Income	105.42	113.11†	+ 0.27	3.50

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
International	86.95	85.43	+ 1.20	0.39
Tst of Inv Trusts	98.28	105.45	+ 0.71	0.90
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Enqs/Unit Dlg 01245 390 390				
American	706.40	745.70	+ 8.30	0.41
-do- Accum	987.40	936.80	+ 7.80	0.41
Amer Recovery	830.40	878.20	+ 8.50	0.23
-do- Accum	980.40	1015.70	+11.00	0.23
Amer Smllr Cos	197.20	208.50	+ 1.70	
-do- Accum	201.50	213.00	+ 1.70	
Australasian	199.50	211.00†	- 0.70	2.14
-do- Accum	257.60	272.40†	- 1.00	2.14
Blue Chip	101.30	101.81	+ 0.15	3.09
-do- Accum	313.00	314.87	+ 0.58	3.09
British Opps	76.40	80.60	- 0.20	2.25
-do- Accum	275.00	281.40	- 0.70	2.25
Capital	1258.10	1331.60†	- 2.80	2.25
-do- Accum	1553.10	1642.40†	- 2.70	2.25
Charifund	1115.60	1126.60	- 0.10	4.33
-do- Accum	8189.60	8261.60	- 0.10	4.33
Commodity	350.40	370.60	+ 0.80	1.49
-do- Accum	520.20	550.00	+ 0.90	1.49
Corporate Bond	29.40	29.48†	+ 0.08	6.18
Dividend	61.30	64.87	+ 0.28	3.74
-do- Accum	288.80	305.30	+ 0.60	3.74
Equity Income	427.40	452.00†	- 0.80	4.40
-do- Accum	833.10	869.70†	- 1.10	4.40
European	943.20	997.40	+12.30	0.27
-do- Accum	1217.40	1287.20	+15.90	0.27
Euro Dividend	116.50	123.60	+ 1.20	2.83
-do- Accum	154.57	163.42	+ 1.60	2.83
Euro Smlr Cos	74.10	78.40	+ 1.10	0.58
-do- Accum	74.30	78.60	+ 1.00	0.58
Extra Income	860.10	909.10†	+ 0.80	4.14
-do- Accum	2357.20	2492.80†	+ 3.00	4.14
Fund of Inv Tsts	887.30	948.50	+ 8.30	1.08
-do- Accum	1769.70	1861.10	+12.50	1.08
Gilt Income	70.48	70.52	+ 0.25	5.40
-do- Accum	231.10	231.48	+ 0.79	5.40
Gold	39.30	41.60	+ 0.30	0.68
-do- Accum	47.50	50.30	+ 0.40	0.68
High Interest	25.21	25.21		7.26
Income	48.50	48.50	+ 0.20	3.68
-do- Accum	211.40	223.70	+ 0.90	3.68
Intl Growth	102.70	108.60	+ 0.90	0.84
-do- Accum	182.80	193.40	+ 1.60	0.84
International Inc	141.80	150.10	+ 0.70	3.71
-do- Accum	235.80	249.20	+ 1.10	3.71
Japan	24.00	25.30		0.07
-do- Accum	25.70	27.10		0.07
Japan Smlr Cos	83.40	88.10	+ 0.80	0.06
-do- Accum	84.00	88.70	+ 0.80	0.06
Managed Gwth	32.80	33.18	+ 0.15	1.16
Managed Income	36.89	39.15†	+ 0.11	3.91
Pension Ex	1528.90	1567.20	- 2.10	2.73
Recovery	65.50	69.30	- 0.20	2.25
-do- Accum	118.50	123.20	- 0.20	2.25
Smaller Cos	79.20	83.80†	+ 0.30	1.94
-do- Accum	170.40	180.40†	+ 0.50	1.94
Sth East Asia	274.80	290.40†	+ 3.10	1.65
-do- Accum	372.90	394.30†	+ 4.20	1.65
Trustee	58.90	62.30		4.43
-do- Accum	267.50	283.10		4.45
UK Equity	93.18	98.50	- 0.20	3.54
-do- Accum	268.10	281.80	- 0.60	3.54
UK Growth	1561.70	1651.50	+ 5.60	1.42
-do- Accum	1768.20	1867.80	+ 6.30	1.42
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing 01277 261 010 Enq 01903 204 631				
European Growth	158.88	168.02	+ 2.36	0.29
Intl Bond	81.35	84.43	+ 0.11	3.43
Intl Equity Growth	108.49	113.08	+ 0.88	0.39
N Amer Growth	200.25	212.35†	+ 1.37	0.36
Special Sits Growth	40.42	43.00†	+ 0.12	1.49
UK Growth	666.37	708.98	+ 1.12	1.84
-do- Accum	939.63	999.60	+ 1.58	1.84
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 825867				
Balanced Fd	1567.00	1586.00		2.66
Income	1250.80	1311.90	....	3.90
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	213.80	218.60†	..	3.63
MAREK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 615 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	113.90	121.80	- 0.20	.
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income	109.00	112.40†	+ 0.10	5.76
Investment Pfio	221.70	238.90	+ 1.80	1.75
-do- Accum	262.90	281.60	+ 1.90	1.75
UK Select Pfio	227.20	234.30	+ 0.40	1.56
-do- Accum	281.80	290.50	+ 0.40	1.56
UK 100 Cos	177.40	177.40†	+ 0.20	1.56
-do- Accum	185.20	185.20†	+ 0.20	1.56
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 642				
Managed Tst	81.60	86.81†	..	2.80
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	110.20	117.00†	+ 0.50	3.60
European	147.50	156.60†	+ 3.00	0.21
Income	115.40	122.50†	+ 0.50	3.28
Nth American	125.10	132.60	+ 2.07	0.17
Far East	138.80	147.30	+ 1.10	..
Japan	48.61	52.66†	+ 0.49	..
Emerging Mkts	82.76	88.51†	+ 0.53	0.65
Intl Growth	152.98	162.30	+ 1.95	0.58
UK Growth	163.30	173.40	+ 0.90	1.57
UK Smlr Co	72.03	76.47	- 0.09	1.43
Asia Pacific	28.24	31.27	+ 0.24	0.10
Glob Gwth PEP	80.70	85.66	+ 1.13	0.57
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	122.60	130.50	+ 0.60	.
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Income	677.64	720.89†	+ 1.44	2.49
Global Inc	102.34	108.87†	+ 0.87	2.23
Brit Leaders Inc	519.09	552.22†	+ 0.90	1.89
Intl Leaders	318.15	338.52†	+ 3.70	0.37
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing 0800 445522				
American	404.40	428.10	+5.700	..
-do- Accum	432.40	455.70	+6.200	..
American Opps	162.40	171.90	+1.400	
-do- Accum	164.40	174.10	+1.400	
Bal Port	122.80	129.90	+0.500	2.29
-do- Accum	154.50	163.80	+0.700	2.29
British Blue Chip	141.20	149.70	+0.400	2.21
-do- Accum	187.30	198.60	+0.500	2.21
Cash	101.00	101.00	...	7.09
-do- Accum	159.20	159.20		7.09
Emerging Mkts	133.50	142.50	- 0.600	0.22
-do- Accum	134.40	144.50	- 0.800	0.22
European Growth	497.70	527.20	+11.70	0.10
-do- Accum	543.20	575.40	+12.80	0.10
General	807.30	856.90†	+1.300	1.88
-do- Accum	1701.00	1806.00†	+4.000	1.88
Global Bond	126.50	133.00†	-0.300	3.57
-do- Accum	179.80	189.10†	-0.500	3.53
Gold & General	120.90	129.10		0.50
-do- Accum	125.00	133.50	- 0.10	0.50
Govt Securities	104.40	107.80	-0.200	4.75
-do- Accum	235.30	242.50	-0.500	4.75
High Yield Bd	112.20	114.90†	+0.200	5.21
-do- Accum	128.50	132.10†	+0.200	5.21
Income	271.10	288.00†	+1.100	3.13
-do- Accum	474.40	504.00†	+1.900	3.13
Inc Portfolio	143.20	151.80	+0.400	4.65
-do- Accum	166.00	175.60	+0.500	4.65
Intl Opps	702.50	748.90	+3.200	0.68
-do- Accum	957.30	1021.80	+5.000	0.68
Japan	129.00	137.80	+0.800	
-do- Accum	132.40	141.20	+0.800	
New Europe	335.50	357.90	+7.800	0.78
-do- Accum	365.90	377.60†	+4.000	0.78
Pacific	79.91	85.87	+1.010	0.27
-do- Accum	81.69	87.35	+1.080	0.27
Recovery	810.80	861.50	+3.900	1.43
-do- Accum	817.60	872.10	+4.100	1.43
UK Smaller Cos	76.00	81.07†	+1.070	1.45
-do- Accum	89.20	95.15†	+2.300	1.45
Managed Gth	156.00	162.90	+0.800	1.56
Managed Inc	150.60	156.20	+0.600	3.53
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq 0345 456 123 Dlg 0345 456 126				
Balanced	88.24	92.40	+ 0.22	2.02
-do- Accum	99.90	104.60	+ 0.26	2.02
Britain Tst	153.80	161.00†	+ 0.60	1.12
-do- Accum	190.90	199.90†	+ 0.70	1.12
Corp Bond Inc	108.40	112.30	+ 0.20	5.94
-do- Accum	119.90	124.30	+ 0.20	5.94
Extra High Inc	84.79	88.26	+ 0.13	5.42
-do- Accum	218.50	228.60	+ 0.20	5.42
FTSE 100 Acc	108.20	113.30		1.52
FTSE 100 Dist	98.65	103.30		1.52
Gilt & Fxd Int	60.95	63.33†	+ 0.14	5.80
-do- Accum	209.30	217.60†	+ 0.40	5.80
High Yield	329.90	345.40	+ 0.40	4.97
-do- Accum	971.50	1017	+ 1.00	4.97
Household Names	133.50	140.70	+ 0.20	1.14
Income	459.90	481.60	+ 0.90	3.41
-do- Accum	1135	1188	+ 2.00	3.41
Money Market UT	49.62	49.62	...	6.47
-do- Accum	89.15	89.15		6.47
Monthly Income	131.00	137.70†	+ 0.10	3.56
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	202.20	211.60	- 0.10	1.56
European Growth	212.90	225.30	+ 2.30	
Gilt & Fixed	119.70	123.80	+ 0.20	5.58
Income	155.50	165.40	+ 0.10	3.13
Japan Growth	31.98	33.90	+ 0.14	
Managed	109.00	116.80	+ 0.40	2.08
Money Market	103.60	103.60		4.97
North American	153.70	162.90	- 0.60	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	180.30	191.20	- 0.10	1.58
European Growth	199.20	211.20	+ 2.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	110.20	114.80	+ 0.30	5.83
Income	152.20	161.90	+ 0.10	3.13
Japan Growth	32.87	33.99	+ 0.13	
Managed	104.70	111.10	+ 1.80	2.85
Money Market	95.50	101.20		4.97
North American	137.40	145.70	- 0.60	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	178.70	190.10	- 0.30	1.56
European Growth	194.90	208.60	+ 2.10	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	96.20	104.10	+ 0.10	5.69
Income	148.10	157.50	+ 0.20	3.12

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	32.76	34.72	+ 0.13	
Managed	107.96	114.80	+ 0.30	2.05
Money Market	95.82	95.97		3.02
North American	153.80	163.00	- 0.60	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers 0171 588 7474 Enquiries 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	663.00	701.40	+ 5.80	
European Gth Inc	782.50	889.10	+12.30	
-do- Accum	770.80	818.00	+12.50	
Intl Gwth	295.90	313.30†	+ 2.70	
UK Equity Inc	311.80	330.00	+ 0.30	3.07
Do Accum	440.30	467.00	+ 0.40	3.07
UK Growth Inc	183.18	195.20†	- 0.10	2.57
-do- Accum	191.60	203.30†	- 0.20	2.57
UK Intl Trckr Inc	279.00	297.28†	+ 0.30	2.21
-do- Accum	358.80	380.00†	+ 0.30	2.21
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	422.40	446.50†	+ 4.30	0.77
Japan Tracker	45.37	47.86	+ 0.08	
Asian Tracker	145.70	157.20	+ 1.60	0.42
Mngd Ptflio Inc	242.40	257.80	+ 0.70	1.39
Mngd Ptflio Acc	270.70	287.80	+ 0.70	1.39
Deposit Inc	100.24	100.24†	+ 0.01	6.95
Europa	293.20	312.70†	+ 0.60	
Genesis	255.90	277.30		1.99
High Income	22.70	24.09	+ 0.04	10.00
Japan Growth	71.85	76.25†	+ 0.48	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 080 933				
American Growth	85.59	88.24†	+ 0.67	
Equity Income	148.80	152.90†	+ 0.82	3.29
European	122.80	128.10	+ 2.40	
Smaller Cos	107.10	112.10	+ 0.40	1.20
Wrldwde Eqty	98.08	99.81†	+ 0.98	
Global Bond	40.87	41.30†	+ 0.07	4.96
UK Growth	152.80	157.10	+ 0.68	1.64
Pacific Growth	76.74	78.54	+ 0.66	1.05
Japan Growth	78.84	80.14	+ 0.14	
OEICS				
Portfolio Acc A	52.76	...	+ 0.32	3.29
Portfolio Inc A	52.76	...	+ 0.32	3.29
Gilt Acc A	50.92	...	+ 0.06	5.98
Gilt Inc A	50.92	...	+ 0.06	5.98
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
Asset Equity	218.72	232.68	+ 0.97	1.54
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	171.28	188.28	+ 2.18	0.01
European Dist	231.70	249.90	+ 4.90	0.13
Far East Dist	130.50	137.40†	+ 0.50	0.05
Global Care Dist	118.00	124.20	+ 1.00	0.53
Ozone Dist	1252.10	1318.00†	+11.90	0.18
-do- Accum	1629.30	1715.00	+15.50	0.18
UK Dist	614.30	646.60		1.84
-do- Accum	1278.00	1345.90	+ 0.10	1.84
UK Extra Inc Dist	126.98	133.60†	+ 0.20	3.59
Welds Dist	138.30	145.60	+ 1.30	0.11
Welds Inc Dist	109.10	114.80	+ 0.40	1.62
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg 0870 601 6147 Admin Enq 0870 603 9148				
Europe Inc	121.46	128.19†	+ 2.39	0.19
Fund of Funds Inc	86.09	90.88	+ 0.47	0.60
North America Inc	91.88	96.95	+ 0.64	
UK Equity Gth Inc	101.64	107.27	+ 1.60	1.06
-do- Accum	112.75	119.00	+ 1.79	1.06
UK General Inc	94.47	99.70	- 0.07	1.09
-do- Accum	107.30	113.14	- 0.08	1.09
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	50.49	53.17	+ 0.07	5.32
UK Income Inc	92.98	98.13†	+ 0.25	1.89
UK Smlr Cos Inc	153.54	164.16	+ 0.58	1.00
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries 0800 614 330 Dealing 0500 440 000				
American	75.14	79.83	+ 0.93	
-do- Accum	75.73	80.56	+ 0.95	
Bond	136.92	145.61	+ 0.49	4.50
Cash Income	51.06	51.06	+ 0.01	6.64
-do- Accum	74.05	74.05	+ 0.01	6.64
Challenger	101.74	104.36	+ 1.17	0.84
Distributor	149.13	158.64†	+ 0.12	1.94
European	94.12	100.12	+ 1.79	
Exprt-L Gilt	101.75	101.81	+ 0.21	2.30
Foundation	149.92	159.48†	+ 0.04	0.92
General Inc	295.97	315.82	+ 0.04	0.92
General Acc	304.24	323.65	+ 2.86	1.00
Growth Inc	133.96	205.91	+ 0.38	0.81
Growth Acc	202.41	215.32	+ 0.40	0.81
Higher Income Inc	49.33	52.47†	+ 0.17	3.58
-do- Accum	63.85	67.71†	+ 0.22	3.58
High Yield Bond	100.97	105.40†	+ 0.14	7.21
Income	404.85	430.47	+ 2.49	2.85
Intnatnl	189.85	197.78		0.99
Intl Gwth	49.40	52.55	+ 0.73	..
Japan	23.17	24.64	- 0.03	
Oriental Inc	121.14	128.87	+ 0.78	0.36
-do- Accum	125.59	133.60	+ 0.81	0.36
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income	63.14	66.81	+ 0.28	4.82
UK Growth	153.90	162.90	+ 3.30	2.21
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	176.90	185.68†	- 0.81	1.14
UK Equity	241.11	253.60†	- 0.27	2.02
UK Equity Income	213.86	224.91		4.03
UK Smaller Cos	187.50	197.37	+ 0.33	1.62
UK Equity Growth	204.14	214.88†	+ 0.24	0.68
UK Index Trckg	243.98	257.16†	- 0.28	1.78
Intl Index Trckg	214.74	226.04†	+ 3.16	0.49
International	344.67	362.81	+ 2.77	0.69
European	399.96	417.54†	+ 7.06	0.81
Pan European	249.51	262.75	+ 2.91	0.70
Nth American	346.59	364.79	+ 2.10	0.02
N Amer Smlr Cos	378.26	398.08	+ 4.37	
Japanese	65.13	68.61	+ 0.25	1.18
Pacific	166.91	175.59	+ 0.75	1.02
South East Asian	183.77	193.44	+ 1.30	1.57
Sterling Bond	110.70	116.53†	+ 0.39	5.72
Intl Bond	121.51	127.91	+ 0.21	4.46
Gilt & Convertible	121.48	127.87	+ 0.27	5.58
Property	98.59	101.67	+ 0.79	5.10
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	518.80	554.80	+ 7.70	
-do- Accum	551.40	589.50	+ 8.40	
Japan Inc	71.82	76.82	+ 0.75	
Nth American Inc	226.50	242.70	+ 3.40	
Worldwide Inc	238.70	253.30	+ 2.58	
HK & China Inc	157.09	167.92	+ 2.30	1.55
Swiss Equities Inc	139.80	148.40	+ 0.40	1.05
Wwide Bond Inc	67.31	71.34†	+ 0.08	5.29
Emging Asia Inc	124.20	133.50	+ 0.80	1.76
-do- Accum	125.20	134.60	+ 0.80	1.76
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.38	50.38†	+ 0.08	6.62
Thailand Inc	49.70	53.84	- 0.53	1.85
New Zealand Inc	80.41	86.57		1.94
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	96.25	102.80†	+ 0.80	0.21
Latin Am Cap Inc	83.32	89.00	- 0.68	0.37
UK All Sh Mkr Inc	100.80	108.20†	+ 0.10	1.80
Broker Unit Trusts				
Wey Global Blue	98.78	105.00	+ 0.10	0.56
Global Portfolio	84.61	90.71	- 0.17	..
Wey Global Red	74.91	79.69	+ 0.07	0.29
Mech Global Gth	73.09	77.51	+ 0.48	0.08
AMB Brit Gwth Inc	158.70	170.00	+ 0.70	0.64
Temple Equity Inc	58.84	64.24	+ 0.01	1.22
Hartley Growth	179.70	191.20	+ 1.30	0.27
Intl Growth Inc	73.83	78.96		
IPS Portfolio Inc	121.10	128.10	+ 0.48	..
Roxburgh Stat Gth	77.19	82.56		0.17
UFC Growth	79.06	84.58†	- 0.51	1.07
Chartfield Port of Fds	58.11	61.65	- 0.01	0.12
Pyg Intl Equity	92.64	98.08	- 0.13	0.12
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg 0800 626 677 Enq 01733 470 470				
Equity	408.00	431.90	+ 0.60	1.11
-do- Accum	915.30	973.60	+ 1.30	1.31
Growth	264.20	278.10	+ 0.80	1.48
Income	398.40	413.30	+ 1.47	2.76
Intl Equity	347.40	369.80	+ 6.80	0.32
-do- Accum	390.28	415.10	+ 7.60	0.22
Equity Income	103.50	110.90	- 0.90	3.89
Equity Growth	138.00	146.80	+ 0.20	0.84
New Europe	155.70	165.60	+ 4.00	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	890.41	950.22	+ 7.93	0.23
-do- Accum	899.82	960.15	+ 8.00	0.23
Income	677.94	724.14	+ 2.91	3.68
Wwide Recovery	581.21	620.54	+ 5.36	0.17
Amer Growth Inc	415.63	441.58	+ 3.33	0.01
-do- Accum	416.63	441.58	+ 3.33	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	340.07	362.72	+ 1.23	0.84
Far Estn Gth Inc	238.72	255.82	+ 1.48	1.23
-do- Accum	243.53	260.45	+ 1.51	1.23
Euro Gwth Inc	298.22	318.30	+ 4.25	0.01
-do- Accum	297.25	317.49	+ 4.27	0.01
UK Growth Inc	165.13	176.38†	+ 0.85	2.08
-do- Accum	184.04	187.52	+ 0.73	2.08
High Income	175.24	187.15	+ 0.73	3.39
Jap Gwth Inc	136.14	145.50†	+ 1.48	0.36
-do- Accum	136.14	145.50	+ 1.48	0.36
PEP Bond	67.76	70.75	+ 0.16	6.57
PEP Growth	196.02	209.20	+ 1.80	0.51
Asian Sr Mkts Inc	93.95	100.49	+ 1.40	0.01
-do- Accum	94.80	101.49	+ 1.42	0.01
Amer Smlr Co Inc	267.72	285.12	+ 2.17	0.01
-do- Accum	267.72	285.12	+ 2.17	0.01
Global Bond	53.38	56.00	+ 0.12	4.86
UK Smaller Cos Inc	132.18	141.57	+ 0.81	1.84
-do- Accum	143.97	153.34	+ 0.82	1.84
Lat Am Gwth Inc	40.88	43.51	- 0.26	0.12
-do- Accum	41.54	44.21	- 0.27	0.12
World Inc PEP	54.41	57.58†	+ 0.30	3.27
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 261 3927				
American	181.79	193.39	- 0.18	
European	140.10	149.04	+ 0.64	
Global	80.33	84.18	+ 0.34	
Pacific	41.56	44.04	- 0.13	
UK Inc & Gth	110.57	117.63	+ 0.19	3.02
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 638 0808 Dlg 0171 588 9890				
Asia	43.49	46.25	+ 0.08	..
Emerg Mkts	43.59	46.35	+ 0.15	0.35
Euro Fund	60.10	63.74	+ 0.55	
Fund of Funds	241.20	255.60	+ 0.58	0.02
High Income	65.67	69.34	- 0.15	5.05
Performance	78.26	82.97	+ 0.19	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Special Sits	350.50	378.68	+ 0.82	0.34
Dividend	142.00	152.20	+ 1.00	3.18
Intl Gth & Inc	312.00	332.00	+ 3.90	0.54
UK & Gen	89.92	94.78	+ 0.84	0.31
Fund of Funds	90.43	96.72	- 0.05	
Bill Growth	82.49	85.88	+ 0.45	0.06
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	228.04	237.83	- 0.85	2.20
For Prolific UT see Aberdeen Prolific UT				
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing 0345 406060 Client Serv 0345 655500				
Managed Tst	55.07	58.07	+ 0.18	1.75
Cash Hlwgs Inc	101.45	101.94	+ 0.01	6.32
Cash Hlwgs Acc	128.83	137.45	+ 0.01	6.32
Dist Trust Inc	132.05	138.84	+ 0.17	4.23
Dist Trust Acc	155.12	163.65	+ 0.20	4.23
Global Growth	134.38	142.95	+ 0.81	1.34
Equity Inc	117.85	124.52	+ 0.17	3.85
Equity	1250.18	1329.98	+ 1.05	1.41
European	421.18	436.46	+ 7.31	0.28
High Income	115.95	123.35	+ 0.33	4.11
Intl Gilt	265.42	282.38	+ 2.45	0.62
Intl Sm Co	109.93	116.95	+ 1.14	0.83
Japanese	121.11	129.50	+ 0.30	..
Mgd Income Tst	51.46	53.20	+ 0.04	7.11
Nth Amer	355.82	368.14	+ 2.56	0.57
Pacific Mkts	87.88	91.88	+ 0.32	1.57
Premier Inc	51.57	53.62	+ 0.08	4.65
Sm Cos	133.64	142.17	+ 0.39	1.95
Spec Sits	172.53	183.54	+ 0.43	1.54
UK Growth	210.99	224.49	+ 0.18	1.44
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 558 8800				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	111.64	117.29	+ 0.56	2.98
Monitored Trust	144.76	152.22	+ 0.81	0.32
UK Smaller Cos	138.33	145.35	+ 0.28	1.78
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	499.90	530.30	+ 1.70	1.61
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers 0171 623 1000 Client Services 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	38.78	40.50	- 0.02	..
Cash	48.88	50.82	+ 0.01	6.44
Emerging Mkts	48.62	50.77	- 0.29	..
Europe	90.21	95.61	+ 0.56	..
Global Fixed Int	45.75	51.86		4.42

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan	28.79	30.65	+ 0.03	..
North America	94.83	98.83	- 0.01	..
UK	93.98	98.15	+ 0.10	..
UK Equity Inc	85.02	88.79	+ 0.17	2.84
UK Fixed Int	55.87	58.45	+ 0.03	6.52
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Grth Port	67.34	69.78	+ 0.11	
Pep Inc Port	66.08	70.65	+ 0.11	2.72
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps	40.03		+ 0.40	
Asia Pacific	37.93		+ 0.15	0.62
Europe	56.78		+ 1.26	
Japan	28.70		+ 0.16	
Latin America	41.80		- 0.17	
North America	58.43		+ 0.46	
UK Eq Income	59.50		+ 0.23	3.36
UK Major Cos	62.64		+ 0.12	0.58
UK Smaller Cos	62.60		- 0.08	0.61
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0870 601 8163 Dealing 0870 601 8085				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1615.00	1708.00	+ 2.00	
Equity Income	161.80	171.20	- 0.10	3.30
European	265.80	278.60	+ 4.20	
High Inc Bond	52.20	52.98	+ 0.02	6.61
Portfolio	151.20	160.00	+ 0.60	0.94
UK Index Trckg	288.70	305.40	+ 0.70	2.45
UK Leading Cos	121.80	128.90	- 0.40	1.64
UK Smaller Cos	158.00	167.10	- 0.50	1.85
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	232.20	252.30†	+ 0.29	2.59
Intl Centenary	72.11	76.68†	+ 0.31	4.80
Intl Growth	103.80	109.80	+ 0.80	
Intl Spec	89.87	95.37	+ 0.46	
Managed	244.70	260.10	+ 1.40	
Pacific Basin	82.66	88.72	+ 0.28	0.58
United States	194.70	208.00†	+ 0.98	0.26
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	223.40	238.90	+ 3.70	
Far East	130.90	138.50	+ 0.90	
North America	282.10	301.60	+ 1.10	
Wider Brand	55.64	59.37	+ 0.08	4.49
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 768 400				
American Growth	281.80	300.80	+ 2.80	0.91
European Growth	244.60	258.70†	+ 2.90	0.25
Far East Growth	106.50	115.50	+ 0.40	2.42
Japan Growth	84.45	89.78	- 0.08	0.63
Special Sits	287.10	305.40†	- 0.90	1.75
UK Growth	148.20	157.80	+ 0.30	2.13
Intl Growth	361.60	384.70	+ 1.90	1.61
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 6500				
Far East Inc	121.67	128.70	+ 0.80	0.86
Gr Euro Prog Inc	634.10	671.00	+ 6.30	0.60
-do- Accum	1002.60	1061.00	+11.00	0.60
Growth Inc	205.00	216.80†	+ 1.80	0.47
-do- Accum	211.00	223.30†	+ 3.70	0.47
International Inc	547.80	579.50	+ 3.80	0.80
-do- Accum	759.70	803.90	+ 5.30	0.80
Nth Am & Intl Inc	561.90	594.60	- 2.80	0.05
UK Gen Prog Inc	365.80	386.80	+ 1.90	1.10
-do- Accum	430.20	455.20	+ 2.20	1.10
UK High Inc Inc	208.20	220.30	- 0.30	3.66
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	84.82	89.70		0.75
European Gwth	140.22	148.27	+ 2.72	1.68
Global Bd	59.86	63.01†	+ 0.10	5.08
Japan	43.28	46.74		
UK Gwth	125.22	133.21	+ 0.81	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients 0800 829 100 Dealers 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	181.58	203.70†	+ 1.80	..
Cash	145.50	145.80†		5.83
China Dragon	83.58	87.62	+ 1.03	0.37
Commodity	115.10	122.40†	- 0.30	
Emerging Mkts	40.37	42.95	+ 0.35	0.29
European Gwth	383.90	397.10	+ 9.60	
Euro Smllr Cos	95.69	101.70	+ 1.10	
Extra Income	74.37	77.07†	+ 0.35	4.67
Far Eastern	74.48	79.23	+ 0.83	
FE Sm Cos	36.57	38.90	+ 0.26	0.29
Financial Secs	498.50	530.30	+ 5.00	0.72
Gold & Exploration	37.53	39.93	+ 0.87	
Growth	632.20	672.49	+ 3.80	0.41
High Income	54.37	54.37†	+ 0.11	7.04
Intl Bond	155.40	164.20†	+ 0.70	5.13
IRII	301.20	320.40	+ 1.50	0.49
Japan Growth	113.10	120.20	+ 1.49	..
Japan Smaller	95.41	101.50	+ 1.85	..
Korea	21.38	22.74	- 0.16	
Latin America	51.58	54.87	- 0.11	0.39
Managed	82.58	83.00	+ 0.60	0.75
Premier Eq Gth	250.20	268.20	+ 1.19	0.60
Premier Eq Inc	530.80	563.80	+ 3.70	3.32
SE Asia	33.84	36.11	+ 0.42	0.64
Southern Africa	50.81	54.05	+ 1.17	1.00
UK & O'seas	259.40	277.00	+ 2.59	0.81
UK Eqty Gth	124.30	132.20	+ 0.60	0.82
UK Eqty Inc	376.70	400.70	+ 2.50	3.25
UK Gilt & Inc	448.70	477.30	+ 2.80	2.15
UK Sm Cos	76.43	81.31	- 0.01	0.79
US Growth	320.80	341.30†	+ 4.00	
New Europe	36.90		- 0.17	
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Cltc 0800 526 535 Bar 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	488.81	518.88	+ 5.29	0.47
-do- Accum	545.63	577.76	+ 5.88	0.47
European Gwth	135.14	143.14	+ 2.10	0.29
Euro Smlr Cos	148.58	157.80	+ 1.85	0.02
-do- Accum	150.67	160.06	+ 1.99	0.02
Far Eastern Gth	88.82	94.52	+ 0.39	0.15
-do- Accum	90.41	96.44	+ 0.40	0.15
Gilt & Fixed Int	57.72	60.88†	+ 0.16	5.97
Global Bond	44.54	46.02	+ 0.03	5.97
-do- Accum	57.32	59.23	+ 0.04	5.97
Global Emer Mkts	49.93	53.25	+ 0.21	0.01
-do- Accum	49.97	53.30	+ 0.21	0.01
Income	580.05	619.71†	+ 0.74	3.86
-do- Accum	2077.43	2215.92†	+ 2.63	3.86
Japan Smllr Cos	211.75	225.86	+ 1.16	..
-do- Accum	212.17	226.32	+ 1.17	..
Japan Enterprise	45.84	48.89	+ 0.28	..
Pacific Gwth	109.79	117.19†	+ 1.85	0.93
-do- Accum	115.21	122.89†	+ 1.94	0.93
Portfolio	119.59	127.44†	+ 0.40	1.82
-do- Accum	135.31	144.88†	+ 0.45	1.82
Select	17.81	18.78	- 0.08	0.72
-do- Accum	17.81	18.78	- 0.08	0.72
Strategic Inc	128.72	132.75†	+ 0.44	1.81
Strategic Acc	129.73	138.41†	+ 0.45	1.81
Tokyo	99.19	105.80†	+ 0.82	..
-do- Accum	100.19	106.87†	+ 0.83	..
UK Enterprise	462.38	493.63	+ 0.98	1.73
-do- Accum	589.88	628.93	+ 1.25	1.73
UK Equity	427.14	455.81	+ 0.83	1.87
-do- Accum	888.35	948.21	+ 1.72	1.87
UK Smaller Cos	454.76	485.07	+ 1.16	0.88
-do- Accum	546.38	582.89	+ 1.40	0.88
US Smllr Cos	370.75	395.80	+ 4.39	..
-do- Accum	370.75	395.80	+ 4.39	..
Institutional Funds				
European	437.79	463.47	+10.44	0.88
-do- Accum	861.14	916.10	+11.95	0.88
Euro Smllr Cos	47.01	49.93	+ 0.70	0.76
-do- Accum	51.38	53.48	+ 0.76	0.76
Global Equity Inc	114.77	119.09	+ 7.45	0.80
Japan Smllr Cos	20.37	21.73	+ 0.23	0.25
-do- Accum	21.18	21.88	+ 0.24	0.25
Mngd Balanced	275.56	285.80†	+ 1.21	2.73
-do- Accum	336.86	349.43†	+ 1.49	2.73
Overseas Equity	244.24	253.97	+ 4.33	0.82
-do- Accum	258.62	268.96	+ 4.61	0.82
Pearl Smllr Cos	138.07	143.82†	+ 1.93	0.73
-do- Accum	147.57	153.71†	+ 2.06	0.73
Pacific	186.94	194.72	+ 1.08	2.40
-do- Accum	211.62	220.43	+ 1.22	2.40
Recovery	3117.79	3247.69	+ 6.29	2.55
-do- Accum	3581.37	3709.76	+ 7.18	2.55
UK Index	287.49	278.63†	+ 0.60	2.44
-do- Accum	357.78	372.66†	+ 0.80	2.44
UK Small Cos	179.84	187.12†	+ 0.85	2.32
-do- Accum	205.48	214.05†	+ 0.84	2.32
US Smllr Cos	88.52	91.99	+ 0.44	0.34
-do- Accum	91.42	95.01	+ 0.46	0.34
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	85.69	91.87	+ 0.18	1.87
Equity Trust	114.35	121.14	+ 0.21	1.97
Equity Strategy	117.10	123.83	+ 0.31	1.00
European Opps	158.65	167.77	+ 2.63	0.32
UK Smaller Cos	95.78	101.29	+ 0.09	1.02
Maxfinum Inc	99.82	101.59	+ 0.01	5.96
Japanese	46.21	48.87	+ 0.11	0.06
Asia Pacific	87.54	92.57	+ 0.18	1.40
American	198.86	210.71	+ 1.27	0.48
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.73	35.73	+ 0.01	6.97
UK Eq Gwth Inc	86.75	92.33	+ 0.03	2.12
-do- Accum	120.63	128.39	+ 0.04	2.12
Intl Income	382.76	402.53	+ 4.33	1.31
-do- Accum	685.84	732.22	+ 7.77	1.31
European	187.87	182.70	+ 2.43	0.64
Japan	45.68	48.42	+ 0.23	..
American	149.63	159.47	+ 1.66	0.75
Far East Tst	66.14	70.55	+ 0.36	1.84
Ethical Inc	62.34	65.98	+ 0.20	1.39
-do- Accum	61.64	65.93	+ 0.24	1.39
UK Blue Chip Inc	57.37	61.14†		2.08
-do- Accum	71.53	76.22†	- 0.01	2.08
UK Equity Inc	61.60	65.70	+ 0.12	3.19
-do- Accum	93.48	99.72	+ 0.19	3.19
UK Global Inc	66.75	71.11†	+ 0.48	1.34
-do- Accum	74.58	79.44†	+ 0.50	1.34
Wwide Tst	112.79	120.16	+ 1.35	0.89
Europe Tactical	117.28	124.97	+ 1.89	0.49
Technology	205.79	218.43†	+ 2.23	0.41
Dist Inc	31.80	33.52	+ 0.05	5.04
-do- Accum	34.93	36.10	+ 0.04	5.04
UK Ext Inc Inc	26.54	28.03†	+ 0.02	6.95
-do- Accum	29.67	31.35†	+ 0.03	6.95
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	726.10	774.50	+ 0.18	1.55
American	489.20	525.10	+ 5.50	0.14
Pacific	302.60	322.80	+ 3.20	0.28
European	926.80	992.00	+15.20	0.45
Worldwide	106.30	113.40	+ 1.50	0.24
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	475.60	505.60	+ 0.80	1.42
-do- Accum	644.20	685.80	+ 0.60	1.42
UK Str Co Eq Inc	311.50	331.30	+ 1.60	1.60
-do- Accum	390.60	414.80	+ 1.80	1.60
Select Opptys Inc	116.80	124.60†	+ 0.80	1.38
Income Plus Inc	123.00	130.80†	+ 0.30	3.05
European Inc	842.30	881.80	+15.50	0.47
-do- Accum	745.10	791.80	+15.50	0.47
Far Eastern Inc	129.00	137.30	+ 1.80	1.33
-do- Accum	151.10	160.70	+ 1.30	1.33
Japanese Inc	41.80	44.50	+ 0.11	..
Nth American Inc	590.30	630.80	+ 4.90	0.03
-do- Accum	554.20	588.10	+ 4.90	0.03
Intl Growth Inc	262.90	279.60	+ 4.80	0.26
Wwide Venture Inc	115.50	122.70†	+ 1.30	0.46
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	628.40	656.60	+ 0.70	1.68
-do- Accum	976.10	1037.00	+ 1.00	1.68
UK High Inc	301.30	318.40	+ 0.60	2.69
-do- Accum	491.80	509.80	+ 1.32	2.69
Europe Inc	721.40	762.20	+23.20	0.28
Nth Amer Inc	438.70	464.40	+ 4.10	..
Global Inc	316.30	334.20	+ 3.80	0.33
Global Acc	345.40	362.90	+ 3.20	0.33
UK Spec Sits Inc	173.90	183.70	+ 0.70	1.48
South East Asia	144.80	153.80	+ 1.30	0.87
Cash Trust Inc	101.68	101.68		6.60
UK Smlr Cos Inc	147.50	155.90	+ 0.40	1.70
-do- Accum	158.80	167.80	+ 0.50	1.70
Intl Bond Inc	87.54	91.84	+ 0.28	3.34
International Stra	98.59	104.30	+ 0.80	..
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries 01277 227 300 Dealing 01277 261 010				
European	230.30	248.40	+ 4.80	0.14
Nth American	168.50	180.50	+ 1.70	
Intl Bond & Curr	138.60	146.00	+ 0.20	5.47
Pooled Pension	318.20	342.90	+ 1.90	1.86
Smaller Cos	154.60	162.70		0.84
UK General	235.80	245.30	+ 0.30	1.73
Far Eastern	82.64	88.25	- 0.57	0.09
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 9202				
Continental	135.60	143.18	+ 2.70	0.80
Global Gwth	102.50	108.20	+ 1.00	0.50
Intl Tst Port	74.45	78.58	+ 0.56	1.80
Managed	1724.50	1802.15	+ 5.54	2.18

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pref Inc	117.20	124.60	+ 0.30	9.60
Smaller Cos	220.70	347.50		0.60
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	123.67		+ 0.41	3.65
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.40		+ 0.01	7.08
Corporate Inc ‡	109.35		+ 0.26	6.00
Tail Pac ‡	85.21		+ 0.83	
Aztec ‡	85.56		- 0.09	
Amer Gth Fund ‡	150.21		+ 1.18	
European ‡	240.10		+ 2.62	
Global Bond ‡	91.07		+ 0.07	6.25
Samurai ‡	39.87		+ 0.16	
UK Growth ‡	143.51		+ 0.02	2.85
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	108.86		+ 0.04	2.56
Investment Trust ‡	141.29		+ 1.31	2.59
The Football Fd ‡	82.49		- 0.31	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	104.33		+ 0.12	
Zenith Reserve ‡	98.12		- 0.18	3.72
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	629.50	665.00	- 7.10	
Capital	193.00	204.20	+ 0.40	0.08
Cash	100.16	100.18†	+ 0.02	6.74
European	225.10	238.20	+ 2.00	0.10
Far Eastern	133.80	141.50	+ 0.20	
Growth	234.60	247.60	+ 0.20	1.05
Income	189.20	200.20†	+ 0.90	4.55
Magnum	197.80	209.30	+ 0.20	1.10
Smlr Secs	786.40	832.10	+ 0.80	
Thoroughbred	231.50	244.80	+ 0.20	1.04
SOCIETE GENERALE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dealing Desk 0171 815 0862				
UK Growth Acc	98.54	102.70	+ 0.10	7.50
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 093				
Crystal Palace	66.81	71.41	+ 0.18	6.50
Ethical	103.60	109.70	+ 0.28	0.66
European Growth	122.50	129.90	+ 2.20	
Income	80.77	86.38	+ 0.06	3.77
Intl Growth	134.00	142.00	+ 1.20	0.12
Managed	124.50	131.90	+ 1.60	0.16
UK Growth	96.92	103.60	+ 0.10	1.88
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	58.20	58.50	+ 0.19	1.81
Global Advtg Acc	64.16	64.49	+ 0.19	1.61
Income Advtg Inc	54.27	51.53	+ 0.10	2.54
Income Advtg Acc	62.54	62.86	+ 0.20	2.54
UK Equity Gth Acc	152.80	162.00	+ 0.70	0.68
Premier Inc Inc	54.38	58.29	- 0.10	6.09
Premier Inc Acc	83.32	85.54	+ 0.10	6.09
Managed Acc	80.15	84.86	+ 0.20	1.41
UK Eq HI Inc Inc	60.37	64.09	+ 0.20	3.36
UK Eq HI Inc Acc	83.43	88.44	+ 0.20	3.36
UK Ethical	52.05	53.88		1.28
UK Smll Cos Acc	68.71	72.80	- 0.10	0.27
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	117.90	125.30	+ 0.20	1.19
UK Equity Gen Inc	82.91	88.10	+ 0.10	1.19
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	35.42	37.46	+ 0.10	5.38
Cnsms Lrg Co Acc	417.50	453.20	+ 2.70	1.94
Nth American Acc	83.08	88.28	+ 0.80	0.01
Pacific Basin	22.47	23.57	+ 0.20	1.46
European Acc	80.56	85.60	+ 1.10	0.40
Japan Acc	20.18	21.45	- 0.20	
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NDS)	5.764	6.121	+0.114	1.76
US Eqts (US$)	4.867	5.259	-0.060	0.87
Far East Eqts (yen)	230.40	244.70	- 0.34	
FT Europe	232.80	246.40	+ 5.25	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	4.436	4.711	+0.085	..
FT Japan (yen)	136.40	144.10	- 2.82	
FT Asia Ex Jap (US$)	2.379	2.526	+0.070	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	690.00	723.30	+ 7.30	
British	1797.40	1981.60	+ 7.80	2.04
Emerging Mkts	171.10	182.30	+ 0.50	0.81
Euro Gwth Inc	142.20	150.50	+ 2.18	
Euro Small Co	73.31	77.95	+ 0.50	
Japan	83.71	88.86	+ 0.30	
Asia Pacific	347.80	370.20	+ 2.70	1.55
-do- Accum	378.20	402.80	+ 3.00	1.55
Inv Trust Acc	389.20	411.50	+ 7.80	0.88
Mngd Equity	265.30	281.70	+ 1.10	1.74
Mngd Cash	96.53	98.53	+ 0.02	6.84
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	16.57	17.63†	+ 0.08	1.11
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	105.72	112.47†	+ 0.13	6
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	120.17	127.84†	+ 0.15	6
European	78.30	83.30	+ 1.04	8.26
Japan	25.40	27.02†	+ 0.29	0.81
Managed Assets	186.87	199.65	+ 0.65	1.82
North American	66.20	70.43	+ 0.60	0.33
Smlr Co's Inc	46.61	49.58	+ 0.06	1.32
Smlr Co's Acc	52.14	55.47	+ 0.07	1.32
UK Growth Inc	92.98	98.92	- 0.11	1.47
UK Growth Acc	108.14	115.04	- 0.14	1.47
Extra Income	64.58	69.08	- 0.01	3.99
Worldwide Gwth	53.03	56.72	+ 0.50	0.38
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries 0117 989 9000				
Discretionary	68.53	73.01	+ 0.06	
UK Income	88.95	94.52	- 0.10	2.19
Mngd Extra Inc Inc	42.40	44.70	+ 0.08	5.91
Mngd High Yld Inc	128.50	136.70	+ 0.01	3.12
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	120.30	127.70	- 0.04	2.31
UK Smaller Cos	50.86	54.10	+ 1.05	1.70
Pacific Gth Pfd	37.07	38.44	+ 0.16	0.85
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 345 794				
American	441.58	467.26	+ 5.05	1.00
-do- Accum	486.38	514.68	+ 5.57	1.00
Brit Growth	179.51	189.95†	+ 0.36	1.10
-do- Accum	228.20	241.49†	+ 0.45	1.10
European	187.39	198.08	+ 3.11	1.36
-do- Accum	199.93	211.57	+ 3.32	1.35
Extra Income	304.45	322.17†	+ 0.17	3.47
-do- Accum	588.95	623.23†	+ 0.32	3.47
Smaller Cos	109.80	116.20†	+ 0.27	0.74
-do- Accum	127.15	134.55†	+ 0.31	0.74
General	516.89	547.00	+ 1.34	1.30
-do- Accum	1129.80	1195.55	+ 2.94	1.30
Premier Income	56.70	59.06	+ 0.06	5.33
-do- Accum	153.05	159.43	+ 0.15	5.33
Income	552.27	584.41	+ 0.62	3.20
-do- Accum	1337.57	1415.41	+ 1.49	3.20
Pacific	275.65	291.70	+ 2.38	0.49
-do- Accum	289.64	306.50	+ 2.49	0.49
International	813.69	861.05	+ 8.22	0.20
-do- Accum	1075.24	1137.82	+ 8.23	0.20
Nat Resources	130.86	138.48	- 0.13	0.83
Shield Opps	187.83	198.78†	+ 0.91	1.06
-do- Accum	250.38	264.95†	+ 1.21	1.06
Environmental Inv	125.05	132.97†	+ 0.34	0.47
Selector	102.68	108.69	+ 0.38	1.24
-do- Accum	122.57	129.70	+ 0.46	1.24
High Income	98.36	104.07	+ 0.08	3.29
-do- Accum	141.50	149.74	+ 0.09	3.29
Intl Income	64.83	68.40†	+ 0.03	3.87
-do- Accum	90.96	96.25†	+ 0.03	3.87
Selector Income	87.62	92.93	+ 0.08	3.31
-do- Accum	115.68	122.41	+ 0.10	3.31
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0800 455810				
British	592.70	623.90†	+ 0.83	1.71
European	123.71	129.54	+ 3.10	1.10
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	289.76	306.63	+ 2.36	2.43
Glob Growth Acc	342.70	362.65	+ 2.79	2.42
Glob Balncd Inc	229	242.32	+ 1.35	3.59
Glob Balncd Acc	286.61	303.29	+ 1.89	3.59
Value Tst Inc	181.99	192.58	+ 1.88	1.88
Value Tst Acc	207.43	219.51	+ 2.16	1.88
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0177 629 0682				
Capital	131.80	140.20	+ 0.70	0.50
International	88.41	94.05	+ 2.14	..
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv 0800 0683000 Inter Serv 0800 0684000				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Funds				
Adv Mngd Gth Acc	54.72	57.29	+ 0.33	0.88
Bal Mngd Gth Acc	54.76	57.34	+ 0.14	2.88
Caut Mg Gth Acc	54.96	57.32	+ 0.01	4.54
Managd Income	55.12	57.71	+ 0.03	3.65
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
Inc				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	53.09		+ 0.06	6.58
UK Equity Inc ‡	61.39		- 0.01	3.56
UK Growth ‡	60.56		+ 0.04	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	55.68		- 0.04	2.49
UK Money Secs ‡	50.24			7.07
UK Monthly Inc ‡	56.56		+ 0.01	3.85
UK Select Gwth ‡	61.06		+ 0.14	1.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	59.21		- 0.02	0.81
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.20		+ 0.41	0.10
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	57.28		+ 0.62	0.01
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.22		+ 0.49	
Asia Growth ‡	38.01		+ 0.14	0.19
Emg Mkt Bd Fd ‡	64.10		- 0.09	8.59
European Growth ‡	63.16		+ 0.92	0.05
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	60.66		+ 1.24	0.05
Euro Smr Cos Gth ‡	62.71		+ 0.56	
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	34.17		+ 0.23	
Global Bond ‡	51.47		- 0.04	5.69
Glb Sel Gth Acc ‡	52.39		+ 0.40	0.11
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	34.83		+ 0.02	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	51.81		+ 0.05	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.75		- 0.07	
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc	81.51		- 0.01	4.28
UK Growth ‡	60.57		+ 0.03	1.80
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	55.88		- 0.04	2.98
UK Inst Gwth ‡	60.71		- 0.03	1.70
UK Overs Eqty ‡	58.32		+ 0.02	1.50
UK Select Gwth ‡	61.08		+ 0.14	2.07
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	59.33		- 0.01	1.44
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	55.36		+ 0.42	0.50
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	57.42		+ 0.62	0.54
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	58.30		+ 0.49	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	38.13		+ 0.13	0.69
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	63.32		+ 0.92	0.58
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	61.03		+ 1.24	0.56
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	62.81		+ 0.58	
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	34.25		+ 0.23	
Global Bond ‡	51.52		- 0.04	5.89
Japan Growth Acc ‡	34.93		+ 0.02	
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	51.87		+ 0.06	
Latin Amer Gth ‡	52.79		- 0.07	
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 396				
UK Eq Inc Acc	479.38	509.86	+ 8.44	3.21
UK Equity Gwth	518.88	548.66†	+ 1.04	1.36
European	276.00	294.62	+ 4.20	0.25
Nth American	125.26	133.26	+ 1.28	0.03
Far Eastern	58.22	61.94	+ 0.33	0.36
Money	78.57	78.57	+ 0.01	6.66
Fixed Interest	92.69	98.50	+ 0.18	7.89
Index Linked Gilt	84.30	89.41†	+ 0.09	1.29
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	115.67	115.67	..	5.78
Pens Growth	147.17	147.17		
Pens Inc Protd	117.36	117.36		
UK Index Tracking	187.33	187.33†	..	1.90
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	14.39	15.14†	..	
Pacific Basin	23.39	24.62		
Global Bond (US$)	0.9764	1.0180		
Platoy Stars	45.61	48.01		
Japan Smlr Cos	27.22	28.65		
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	132.70	134.10		
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8233	0.8318		
Gilt Income	52.85	53.77†	..	6.20
Gilt Growth	89.37	91.78		
Sterling Bond	52.62	53.61†	..	5.90
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	72.87	77.20		7.54
UK Stockmarket	146.80	154.80		1.84
Corporate Bd Inc	51.37	51.48		5.37
Do Accum	57.08	57.20		3.37

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge

Early gains reversed

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
618	407½	Allied Domecq	586½	-½	4.2	15.0
626	295	Bulmer (HP)	355	+14	5.2	11.0
75½	28	Burn Stewart	29½		14.4	10.3
736	432	Diageo	710½	-14½	2.6	30.5
1040	775	Glenmorangie A	820		2.0	19.6
390	258	Highland Dist	289½	+½	4.1	12.5
336	157	Matthew Clark	207½		12.0	6.7
109¾	45	Merydew W	48½		8.0	..
2009¾	1588½	SA Breweries	1709¾		2.1	..

BANKS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¾	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1428¾	+40¾	2.1	21.3
1345	710	Abbey Natl	1179	+9	3.3	18.1
1032	532½	Alliance & Leic	865	-7	3.0	17.8
796½	388½	Allied Irish	770	+1½	2.4	..
518¼	363½	Aus New Z	412¼	+1	4.9	..
5150	2875	Bank America	5145½	+134½	..	..
754	291½	Bank Scotland	708½	+7½	1.5	19.6
1996	978½	Barclays	1766	-18	2.6	17.2
1276	517½	Bk of Ireland	1251	+15	1.7	27.5
8959¾	6006½	Citicorp	8853½	+65¾	..	..
1759¾	1268½	Commerzbk	1581¼		2.8	..
862½	280¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	462½		0.8	..
4583¾	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	4521¼	+150	1.3	..
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1162½		3.1	..
947½	198	Fuji Bank Y	400½	+2	1.0	79.1
2360½	1272½	HSBC†	2006	+72	3.1	18.1
2258½	1226	HSBC HK†	1876	+63	3.3	15.0
1000	507	Halifax†	928½	-5	2.4	26.9
842½	463½	Irish Perm†	827½		2.0	..
988	424	Lloyds TSB†	949½	-18½	2.3	25.2
1008	669½	Nat Aust Bk	876	+4	4.4	..
1208	663½	Nat Westm†	1108	-14	3.8	23.8
669½	449	Northern Rock	649	-4½	2.0	24.2
1000	508	Ryl Bk Scot	911½	-8½	2.9	17.9
1093½	528	Stand Chart†	920	+23	2.5	14.8
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		1.9	..
427¼	315½	Westpac	414¾	-11½	3.5	..
400	267½	Woolwich	377	-7	3.3	18.7

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1150	698½	Bass▼	1138	-7	3.0	20.4
68¼	43½	Bdr for the Bdr	58	-½	4.1	17.3
205	132½	Burtonwd Brw	151½		5.8	13.3
155½	110	City Centre Rest	118	+6½	3.0	..
1027½	575½	Compass Grp†	980	+15	1.2	34.1
320½	250	Eldridge P 'A'	320		2.4	16.1
310½	221	Enterprise Inns	310½	+½	3.0	17.1
486	412	Fullr Sm 'A'	467½		2.8	15.1
586	310	Greenalls Grp	459	-1½	4.5	11.5
770	610	Greene King	703½	-2½	3.0	14.4
268½	152½	Grosvenor Inns†	257½	+1	3.0	35.0
335	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	329	+1½	1.2	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hansn	243½	-1	5.9	10.6
2650	2005	Hall J	2025		3.7	11.3
78	56	Inn Business†	67		3.5	10.1
357	279	Mansfield	280	+3½	3.1	12.0
316½	252	Merton Thorp	316	+½	3.3	11.2
615	427½	Morland	430		3.8	10.8
377½	210	Old Eng Pub	377½	+2	0.8	29.8
47½	18½	Paramount	26½	-1	..	..
853	527½	PizzaExpress†	811½	-5	0.5	38.6
437½	297½	Ransoms (H)†	297½		2.1	27.7
378½	262½	Regent Inns†	370½	-1	1.2	26.5
227	102½	SFI	218		0.5	38.0
931	586	Scot & New	920	+5	3.0	18.4
306	222½	Vaux Group	284½	-2	4.9	12.1
338½	221	Wetherspoon JD	333½	+1	0.8	35.8
1115	620	Whitbread	1086	-17	2.8	18.8
706½	430	Wolvrhmptn D	522½		4.5	11.9
428½	279½	Yates Bros	427½		0.8	30.8
702½	615	Young 'A'	647½	..	3.0	26.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
68	33	Aggregate Inds	65	-2	3.4	22.0
405¾	290	BPB	387	-12½	3.2	17.7
110½	88½	Baggeridge Brk	104½		4.2	14.1
64½	27½	Blockleys	58½	-2	0.3	..
452	271½	Blue Circle	400	+17½	4.0	16.8
113½	78½	Breedon PLC	112½	+5	8.7	..
187½	119	Br Dredging	184½		4.5	..
929	592½	CRH	929	+24½	1.1	..
62½	42½	Cakebread Rby	60½		8.1	4.9
192½	106½	Capel†	141½		5.7	12.2
273	158½	Camdon	193		5.5	13.4
139¾	98½	Camdon pf	111½		8.1	..
130½	50	Chieftain Grp†	115½		4.7	..
272½	201½	Dyson (JJ)	218½		3.3	13.0
145	105	Dyson 'A'	116½		6.2	7.0
120	43½	Ensdome	58		..	..
290	147	Epwin	168½		7.6	8.9
115½	83½	Gibbs & Dandy	115		4.4	..
187	119	Graham Grp	187	+½	4.1	..
365½	187½	Halstead (J)	255	+2½	4.7	18.0
395	245	Hanson	388	+2	4.2	3.8
287½	179	Hepworth	231½		6.7	15.8
145	72½	Hewetson	130	-3½	6.2	8.6
268	190½	Heywd Wiams†	227½		7.6	8.6
75½	43	Ibstock	55½	-1½	5.1	..
530	275	Johnston	285	-2½	5.3	10.4
107½	62½	Litteshall†	107½		5.8	10.6
137	82½	Marley	117	+4½	6.5	9.8
160½	119½	Marshalls†	142½	+1½	4.8	..
451¾	326½	Meyer Intl	400		3.8	14.9
95½	54½	Norcros	76	-½	3.1	16.7
169	103½	Pilkington	127	+4½	4.9	16.2
264½	168½	Polypipe†	175	-1	2.5	13.1
27	14½	Quiligotti	17½	+½	..	14.7
1147½	740½	RMC Gp	992	-1	3.2	13.9
114½	76½	Rubeoid	94½	-½	6.5	17.6
139½	91½	Rugby Group	124½		3.8	24.4
113	76½	Russell (A)	80½		4.3	12.2
346½	195½	SIG	209½		4.8	10.2
3½	1½	SNP	2	+½	..	10.9
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	225½		3.6	..
25	9½	Spring Ram	22½	+½	0.6	..
242½	144½	Streamline Hldgs	240	-1	4.6	14.7
734	93	Tarmac	119½	+½	6.0	14.1
140	82½	Titan	86½		7.5	9.2
628½	436½	Travis Perkins	623½	-2½	2.2	18.8
80½	34½	Tudor	80½		4.1	18.0
299½	157½	Ultraframe	299½		1.5	31.7
570	410	Wolseley	439	+9½	3.3	14.0

CHEMICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175½	134½	Albright & Wilt	156½	..	4.5	15.7
204½	98	Allied Colloids	203½		2.0	27.5
135	100	Amber Ind	115		6.2	9.1
117½	91½	Amberley Gp	104½	-½	2.0	17.6
100	82	Aldsone Ex	82	-1½	..	13.4
2531¾	1865¾	BASF DM	2096½		3.2	..
1185	850	BOC	1012	-3	3.3	17.4
395½	248	BTP	394½	+1	3.8	18.9
2659¾	1934¾	Bayer DM50	2437½	+3½	2.3	..
126	68½	Brent Chemcl	103½		3.6	..
294½	185½	Br Vita†	290	+8½	3.8	14.6
192½	128½	Brunner Mond†	186	+9½	5.8	10.2
315½	241½	Canning (W)	292½		4.0	..
250½	143½	City Technology	195		2.4	37.7
402½	234	Courtaulds	363		4.6	15.6
445	246	Croda	420½	+1	2.5	19.9
305½	303½	Doeflex	206½		4.6	8.9
152½	101½	Elementis	143½	-1½	..	25.2
320½	238½	Ellis & Everard	287½		4.4	12.3
73	49½	Enra Colour	58		5.3	10.3
178½	81½	Gibbon	165	-1½	5.3	11.2
92½	52	Hickson†	91½		1.1	..
2918¾	2059¾	Hoechst	2334½	+18½	2.1	..
365	118½	Holliday Chem	262½	-1	2.7	19.0
1200	621½	ICI†	[illegible]	-4	3.0	39.8
350½	163½	Inspec†	236½	+11½	3.6	10.7
189½	119	Kalon†	183	-1	4.2	24.7
779	592½	Laporte	777½	+18½	3.4	15.4
91	39	Macdem	59½		4.6	7.8
35	22	Metrotect	33		4.0	8.3
370	240	Porvair†	370	+2½	2.1	20.6
245	174½	Scapa	184½		4.0	10.0
29	16½	Seacliffe Speak	21½		6.8	9.3
1980½	1136¼	Tacerda Chem	1455½	-20	0.4	27.0
369½	147½	Victrex	246½		2.4	22.3
685	595	Wolstenholme R	617½		5.3	11.6
243	158	Yorks Grp	236	..	4.9	..
381½	254½	Yule Catto	363½		3.2	15.4

CONSTRUCTION

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
39	15½	AAF Inds	45½		2.5	24.9
330	170	Abbot	330		2.8	19.9
407½	227½	Allen	404	+1	4.2	14.7
[illegible]						

DISTRIBUTORS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						
580	367½	BSS Group	370	-2½	7.1	11.1
19½	12½	Bearing Power	19½		..	..
38½	34½	Bogod 'A'	34½		3.3	5.5
690	530	Boisner	580	+1½	3.7	12.9
27	10½	Bridgend Gp	13½		1.9	81.6
118½	78	Bull Fthergl	91½	+4	7.3	..
370	300	Caffyns	350		4.6	8.1
225	162½	Car Group	181	+4½	3.2	17.1
172½	117½	Cawdale	145		3.3	8.4
100	51½	Charles Sidney	81½	..	4.3	13.1
59½	31½	Cook (DC)	42½		7.2	6.1
130	90½	Dag Motors	130		8.8	..
134½	102½	Davenports El	117½	-1	3.3	8.8
400	215	Diploma	289½	-4	7.4	10.0
511½	387½	Electrocomponts	481	+6	2.1	26.4
78½	19½	Eurocopy†	20½		14.6	3.4
226½	117½	Eurodis Elect	182½	-4	4.1	27.9
107½	79½	European Mtr	106½		6.9	8.3
305	213	Evans Halshaw	280½	-15½	7.9	8.8
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	49½		9.3	5.6
400½	275	Finelist Grp†	398½		2.6	15.9
34½	19½	Gardiner†	28½		4.7	11.4
82½	67½	Glencheviton	78½	+17	3.2	..
135½	82½	Gowrings	126½	-3	3.5	..
18½	11	HR Owen	14½	-1	7.1	..
302½	284½	Headlam	386	+1	2.0	23.4
172	145	Holders Tech	156		5.8	..
240½	65½	ISA Intl	83	-1	5.1	6.3
308½	136½	Inchcape†	218	+6	5.7	26.2
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	57½		5.4	7.4
535	214½	Kalk-Fit	486½	-3	1.7	21.7
632½	316½	Lex Service†	532½	+17½	4.1	13.5
122	97	Lookers	117½		9.2	7.6
545	351	Menzies (John)†	457½	-2½	3.8	14.8
9	4	Middlesex	5		..	..
[illegible]						

OIL & GAS (continued)

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
47½	35½	Lasmo Units	41½	-1	22.1	
82	61½	Monument	66½	-½		34.8
3784¾	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2977½	-12½	1.9	9.7
201	95½	Oil Search	104½			
61½	30½	Petroz	47½			
56	34½	Premier†	39½	-2	1.9	8.4
65½	39	Pittencrieff Rs	46½	-1		28.5
665½	331	Ranger	388½	-14½	4.9	7.0
3446½	2521½	Royal Dtch Fl	3446½		2.6	
5618½	2950	Schlumberger	4618½		1.0	
492	329½	Shell	443	-9½	3.3	24.7
404½	234½	SOCO Intl	313½	-4	..	..
7325	4668½	Total	6484½	+6½	2.0	
630½	187½	XCL	332½			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
115½	84½	Aberdeen Assts	114		4.1	34.3
700	250	AMVESCAP	848	+1½	1.1	28.4
194	105½	BWD†	179½		5.2	16.2
67½	45½	Berry Bch Nbi	52½		7.1	13.0
363	262	Bisiac Inv	271	+1		
369½	182½	Brewin Dolphin†	360	-9½	3.3	17.5
843	588½	Caledonia	836½	+1½	2.9	22.3
3750	2225	Canadia	3750	+150	1.1	15.9
629	263	Cattles	629	+36	2.0	31.0
61½	49½	Christie	41		3.0	13.4
777	356½	Close Brost	763½	+7	2.1	22.2
610	433	EFM	532½		6.1	
66½	20	Enco	22		20.5	8.6
33½	12½	Fishers Intl	33½	+½	2.5	
257½	194	Friends Ivory Sime	218½		4.3	
408½	270	Gerrard	408½	+5	4.9	18.3
286	213	Hampros	274	-6½	3.4	26.3
1705	1125	Henderson	1637½		3.6	22.6
182½	142½	Hitachi Cred	182½		2.9	15.8
175	94½	Investment Co	175		2.5	
268½	134½	Jardine Strat	156	-½	5.8	
157½	72½	Johnson Fry	156		3.2	
635	465	Leopold J	600		4.2	26.3
617	429½	Liberty Intl	612½	-½	3.6	26.8
483½	299½	Lon Forfaiting†	468	-6	3.3	15.7
228½	169½	London Pacific†	200½	+½	8.6	
138	85½	Lon Scot Bk	138	+½	3.1	24.4
263½	170½	Man ED & F	259½	+5	5.3	10.4
1800	1097½	M & G	1792½		2.8	29.0
222½	108½	ParagonA	218	+½	1.5	9.2
3750	2155	Perpetual	3750	+32½	2.1	25.3
995	500	Provident†	951½	+2½	2.6	27.4
602½	303	Rathbone Br	600		3.6	21.2
67½	39½	Rea Brothers	66½	-1	1.9	
64½	44½	Rutland Tst	60½	-1½	3.8	
157½	80	SEC Group	94½	-1½	6.7	7.4
445	302	S & U	380	-7	6.1	10.0
2465	1370	Schroders	2386	-4	1.2	27.1
2270	1225	Schroders N/V	2040	+15	1.2	23.2
775	522½	Secure Tst	770		3.8	
185	127½	Singer & Fried	181		3.4	14.2
55½	29½	Towry Law	52½			
5½	1½	Trio Hldgs	4½			
106½	65	Union	69½	+1		
54	20½	Versailles Grp	49½	+½	1.1	29.6
427½	310	Wesfrust†	423½		4.2	17.2

PHARMACEUTICALS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
285	63	Brit Biotech	73½	-½		
1115	582½	Cantab Pharms	680			
673	247½	Celltech	311	+11		
443½	215	Chiroscience	265	-5		
335	95	Core Group	96			
205	162	Cortecs	171	-2½		
1983	885½	Glaxo Wellct	1599	-6	2.2	30.8
245	75½	ML Laboratories	112	-½		
330½	140	Medeval	164	+½	3.1	7.8
408	228½	Peptide Thera	288½			
511½	177½	Powderject	501½	-1½		
92½	24½	Proteus Intl	73			
84	56	Ransom (Wm)†	61½		5.2	12.4
145½	124½	Quadrant Health	141	-1½		
737½	237½	Scotia	270	-2½		
409	216	Shire Pharms	409	+45½		
103½	46	SkyePharma	97	-1½		
888	384½	SmithKlineB†	747½	+½	1.5	36.7
392	180	Therp Anti Inc	210			
707½	367½	Vanguard	635	+37½		
153½	40½	Vanguard Wts	152	+18		
435	145	Xenova	214			
2642	1585½	Zeneca†	2423	-25	2.0	31.5

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	166½	Alexon	271½	-1		
266	174½	Allders	221½	+1½	4.5	10.8
320	149½	Allied Carpets	163	+1	6.0	12.6
508	302	Arcadia	486	+1	0.3	19.6
768½	390	Argos	630	+13	3.8	19.6
109	18½	Ashley (Laura)	35		2.1	62.9
256½	177½	Austin Reed	179	-1	4.7	12.0
364½	287½	Beales	309½		3.8	10.6
171½	141½	Beattie (J)	162½		6.5	12.2
161½	119½	Bewalls	142½	..	2.5	5.1
562	359½	Blacks Leis	402½		1.4	15.6
308½	109	Body Shop	121		5.2	12.8
974	597½	Boots†	932½	+14½	2.8	21.6
52½	11½	Brown & Jackson	42	-½		11.3
460	375	Brown (N)	450	-5	2.0	24.9
624½	385½	Carpetright	422½	-7½	6.2	14.0
323½	220	Christies Int	232½	-9	3.0	17.7
550	368	Church	420		5.1	
120	59½	Clinton Cards	120	+12	3.2	..
134	65	C'try Casuals	132½			
272½	148½	Country Gdns	252½	+1	0.9	18.3
615	332½	Courts Furnsh†	420	-5	1.1	18.1
656	365½	DFS Furniture	382½	-12½	4.4	14.6
488	367½	Debenhams	395	+7½	0.7	18.6
723	459	Dixons Grp	525	+16½	2.6	15.8
59½	19½	Elec Boutique	59	+½		30.7
6	2½	ERA Gp	4½			
103½	46½	Essex Furn	51½	-1	9.1	10.4
142½	102½	Etam	133½		1.2	
170	155	Falkland Isls	150			17.3
207	146½	Fine Art Dev	194		6.2	15.0
322½	112½	Fired Earth	308½		1.4	
532½	177½	Flying Flw Uls	522½	...	1.8	
149½	70½	Formaster	108½		2.9	46.2
407½	267	French Conn	405		0.9	16.9
63½	34½	Gaves	40½		3.5	
404½	217½	Goldsmiths Gp	252½		3.6	14.5
162½	115½	Grantham Hdy	145		5.8	11.9
805	579	GUS†	777	-2	3.0	20.2
401½	220½	Hamleys	293½	-1	4.8	
107½	59½	Hampden Grp†	106	-½	3.4	10.2
343½	231½	Harveys Furn	312½		2.8	32.4
231	136	Hse of Fraser	170	+14½	4.1	18.3
135½	70½	Hughes (T.J)▼	130½		3.4	
823½	268	JJB Sports	672½	-1½	1.0	32.5
1180	622½	Kingfisher	1154	-11	2.5	20.6
450	250	Liberty	330		1.0	
200	25½	Limelight	28	+½		
200½	81	MFI	85		7.2	9.2
683	458½	Marks Spencer	619½	+19½	2.7	22.6
46½	22½	Merchant Retail	44½	+½	1.0	32.1
287	216½	Moss Bros	219½		3.1	14.7
860	522½	Next	717½	-19½	2.8	21.9
42	26	Oliver (G)	29½	-1		
535	382½	Ottakar's Intl	408		2.6	
187½	43½	Partners	47		1.3	8.7
90½	67½	Partridge Fnet	80		7.8	7.0
40½	25½	QS Hldgs	26			
337½	256½	Rosebys	309½		4.9	
142½	50½	Save Group	103½	-1	8.6	7.8
95½	46½	Sears	56½	-½	8.3	42.9
39½	26½	Signet Group	37½	-½		0.7
541½	337½	Smith WH†	526½	-1	3.6	
1285	910	Sothebys	1282½		1.9	
305½	184	Storehouse	259	+8	4.1	13.0
150	71½	Style	75	-1	7.8	
288½	135	Thorn	150	-½	11.1	8.3
203½	86	Tie Rack	86½	-½	4.8	8.7
340	200	UNO	221½	-7½	2.7	18.0
4	2½	Upton & Smith	2½			26.6
543½	324½	Vendome	433		2.1	18.4
417½	132½	Wickes	319½	-2	0.8	52.6
373½	232½	Wyevale†	355		2.4	23.1

SUPPORT SERVICES

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
722½	386	AEA Tech	722½	+20	1.5	34.4
200	142	Aggreko	178	+3	2.7	21.3
114	68	Alpha Airpts	80		6.3	7.6
56	32½	Alphameric	39½			17.4
79	29½	Acme Grp	74½			
533½	254	Atkins WS	525½	-7	1.7	31.0
209½	112½	BNB Res	208½	+1	4.7	
790	394½	BPP	735	-45	2.8	
797½	416	BTG	677½	-11	0.2	
100½	69½	Bronic Servicg	90½		5.0	13.3
848½	432	Business Post	848½		1.7	36.4
2527½	840	CMG	2527½	+27½	0.4	65.3
469	220½	CRT Gpt	452½	-1	1.2	62.9
937½	590	Capita Gp	937½	+5	1.6	
466½	161½	Capita Group†	447½	+14	0.6	69.4
9	6	Chemex	7½		3.3	9.5
250	172½	Corp Services†	230½	+½	3.2	17.0
58½	24½	Coutts Cnslig	25		0.5	..
526½	217½	DCS Gp	510	-12½	0.6	..
790	206	Danka Bs Sys	278½	-½	1.3	12.0
420	232½	Dave Service	418½		3.4	21.9
910	640	Delphi	766	+5	0.4	68.5
970	290	Diagonal†	900		0.4	80.0
415	170	Dooley Jenkins†	407½		1.6	29.1
79½	37	EW Fact	55	-½	4.5	9.5
100	49	El Data Prct	65		4.2	14.5
1502½	470	FI Group†	1325		0.6	73.5
455	175	Harvey Nash	454	+4	1.1	
1100	515	Hays	1036	-2	1.2	35.9
313½	194½	Hogg Robinsn	281½		4.5	13.1
1257½	530	JBA Hldgs	625	-7½	1.0	
311	207	Johnson Clean	304		5.3	
114½	47½	Kalamazoo	47½		11.2	
730	521½	Kewill Sys	730		1.7	17.5
37½	13½	Laser-Scan	22	-½		
476½	153½	Lavendon†	475	+22½	1.0	30.9
1630	671	Logica†	1597½	+10	0.8	45.9
717½	280	Lorien†	685½			
191½	77	Lynx Group	186½	+½	1.3	27.3
75½	20	MDIS	74½	+1½		
1015	415	MMT Comp	995	+7½	1.4	33.5
150½	85	MR Group†	147½	+2	3.3	19.5
492½	312½	Macro 4†	375		8.6	10.8
92½	37½	Menzmore Abbey†	71½		1.1	21.4
721	182½	Micro Focus	685	+5		43.1
178½	55	Microgen†	73½		8.5	9.8
3085	1064½	Misys†	3040	+40	0.5	50.9
279½	155½	MITIE Gpt	278½	+3½	1.0	30.5
53½	30½	Novo Group	53½		3.7	12.1
55½	33½	Orbis	47		3.5	12.6
680	220	PSD†	575	-10	1.8	
836½	427½	Parity	786½		0.8	
390	228½	Pegasus	293½	+18½	3.2	
242½	96	Penna	237½		1.2	12.1
255½	108½	Photo-Mei	246	-3½	2.8	23.7
45½	10½	Proudfool	43			
253	165	RCO†	190		10.5	24.6
290	129½	RPS Group†	290		2.1	23.9
65	35½	Radius†	41½		3.3	
447½	198	Real Time	425		1.8	14.7
113½	59½	Rebus	107	-1½	2.2	23.5
193	105½	Reed Executive	186½		1.9	10.7
190	100	Reliance Sec	163½	-1½	5.2	14.5
365	197½	Rentokil In	352	+5	1.1	33.9
205½	109½	Ricardo Group†	203½		4.0	25.6
569½	135½	Robert Walters	556½	-1	0.9	
510	287½	Rolfe & Nolan	495	-12½		
382½	204½	Royalblue†	302½		0.9	40.8
1420	517½	Sage Gp	1352½	+15	0.3	57.6
165	61½	Sanderson	155½	+4	3.9	14.6
717	338	Select App	690½	-1	0.6	29.5
2367½	1085	Sema Gp	2367½	+7½	0.4	60.4
1275	655	Serco Gp†	1275	+5	0.6	53.4
186	124½	Sparks & McEwan	178½	+1	2.8	32.5
890	185	Stemed Intl	890	+10	0.8	37.3
57	30	Simon Grp	54	-1½		
102½	37½	Sketchley	49½	-1½		
285	125½	Skillsgroup	254½		2.1	
232½	114	Stat-Plus	115		13.0	
475	62½	Superscape VR	158½	+2½		
105½	49½	Torex	102½	+4	2.6	16.7
3300	190½	Tyco Intl	3050		0.2	
126½	54½	WSP Group	112½		3.2	
300	210	Warner Howard	210		6.5	9.5
284½	175	Waste Mgt Intl	225			39.6
415½	200½	Waste Recyg	412½	-1½	0.8	37.8
238½	127½	Whitehead Mann	236½		2.4	19.5
79½	45½	White Young Grn	78½		5.6	12.1
485	294½	Williams	426½	-24½	3.8	21.7

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	368½	BT	650	-6	3.7	18.8
1637½	270	COLT Telecom	1332½	-65		
760	450	Cable Wireless	754	+16½	1.8	31.7
426½	306½	Cable&Wire Comm	426	+11		
545	251½	Energis	545	+16½		
315	167½	Euro Telecom	287½	+2½	1.2	24.2
200	77½	General Cable	151½	+5½		
445	184½	Orange	418½	+8½		
415½	248½	Securicor†	403½	-1	0.5	52.4
134½	61½	TeleWest	92½	+½		
625	240	Vodafone	567½	-14½	1.1	46.7

TRANSPORT

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
253½	169½	Air London	246½		3.3	15.1
462½	218	All Nippon Ai	346½	+7	0.4	
495½	329½	Arriva†	468½	-8½	3.6	13.3
388	247	Assoc Br Ports†	375		3.0	19.3
327	262	Autologic	317½	-½	3.0	21.7
221	124	Avis Europe	220	+2	1.9	22.7
614	402½	BAA	567	-6	2.8	17.3
753½	488	Br Airways	620	+15½	3.1	31.1
112½	87½	Clarkson (H)	99½		5.2	
167½	111½	Clydeport Ops	155½	-2	4.6	
347½	197½	Dart	345½		2.4	16.9
88	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	47	-3		
356½	184½	FirstGroup	355		2.1	25.3
157	118½	Fisher (James)†	129		3.1	
680	520	Forth Ports	679	-3½	2.7	
800	424	Go-Ahead†	583½		1.9	14.0
600	388½	Goode Durrant	599½	-½	2.2	17.7
441	109½	Helphire Gp	380	-12½	0.3	46.7
1055	405	Irish Cont†	1055	+25	0.6	22.5
104	66½	Jacobs	85½	+½	2.9	38.0
96½	60	Lon O Seas Frts	67½			
573½	368	Mersey Docks	573½	+7	3.2	21.6
187½	121½	NFC	185½	-½	3.8	19.4
856½	434	Natl Express	845½	-5	2.0	18.8
738	446½	Ocean Group	731½	-3½	2.5	22.1
119½	82½	Ocean Wilson	94½		5.0	17.0
903½	589½	P & O Dfd	895½	+6½	4.3	19.9
129	101	P & O 5.5%	108½	+½	6.4	
1121	540	Railtrack	1033½	+43½	2.7	19.6
135½	88½	Salvesen (C)	112		6.4	16.1
63½	32	Seacon†	39½	-½	4.0	30.0
270	244	Seascope Ship	267½		5.8	9.0
305	180	Servisair	226½		2.9	
996½	589½	Stagecoach	990	+2½	1.3	22.5
852½	542½	Tibbet & Britn	627½		3.3	17.4
258½	162½	TDG	250	-1½	4.9	15.9
116½	65½	Ugland	108½	+1½	5.9	
103½	38½	Utd Carriers	80		7.5	

WATER

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
933	577½	Anglian	930	+24	4.8	12.7
335	300	East Surrey	316	-2½	4.2	12.8
1053½	740	Hyder†	977½	+15	5.6	8.2
140½	101½	Hyder Cm Prf	122½	+½	8.0	
770	632½	Mid Kent Hldgs	762½		5.1	11.4
1085	663	Severn Trent†	1028	+38	4.6	11.3
3525	2756	South Staffs	3525	+70	3.3	14.6
1005	596½	South West	982	-16½	4.8	12.4
1043	593½	Thames	972	+12	4.6	10.9
906	605½	Utd Utilities	881	+26	5.4	14.3
550	344½	Wessex†	525	+1½	4.5	10.2
546½	325	Yorkshire	546	+3½	4.5	10.6

RETAILERS, FOOD

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	105½	ASDA Group†	199½	-2½	2.0	18.7
73½	38½	Budgens†	70½	-½	2.6	14.3
74	41½	Dairy Farm Intl	74	+½	5.0	
236½	180	Fareok	180		3.6	12.9
62½	35½	Fitzwilton	37½		7.6	10.3
138	80	Fyffes†	132½		1.6	15.3
2403	1335	Greggs	2400	+95	1.9	
199½	78½	Iceland Group	199	+1½	3.5	15.3
411½	285	Kwik Save	402½	+1½	6.2	14.5
253	144	Morrison (W)	258½	-½	1.0	20.6
67½	38	Park Foods	43	-5	8.7	12.5
8½	5½	Regina Hlth	8½			
430	307	Safeway	374½	+½	4.7	13.4
530	307	Sainsbury J	521	+11	3.0	21.2
353½	161½	Somerfield†	343½	-2	3.9	11.8
244½	152½	T & S Stores	238½		4.2	13.3
585	327	Tesco	580½	+11½	2.3	23.1
283½	169½	Thorntons†	258	-3½	2.6	22.8
590	335½	Wilson& Philip	591½		4.0	16.2

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997/98 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
370	84½	Abacus Recruit	280	-5	0.7	13.2
217	170	Cafe Inns	215		1.7	16.3
262½	135	Dawson Hldgs	171½		3.5	15.4
51½	26½	Freepages	34½	-½		
99½	53	Megalomedia	53		0.5	35.2
65	22½	Memory Corp	25			
590	280	Prism Rail†	450	-20	2.5	
1265	630	Ramco Enr	722½	+7½	0.2	
810	619½	Southern Newst	807		3.3	15.6
94½	65½	Southern Vectis	94½		2.8	14.7
60½	14½	Trocadero†	29½	-1½		

Source: FT information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
116¹¹⁄₃₂	113²³⁄₃₂	Treas 4¾% 1998	116¹⁄₃₂		3.97	7.77
101⅝	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.65
110¼	101⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	101⅝		13.85	7.10
114⅝	104⅞	Treas 15½% 1998	104⅞	-⅛	14.88	7.03
104¼	103½	Exch 12% 1998	103½		11.64	6.99
105⅜	101²⁷⁄₃₂	Treas 9½% 1999	101²⁷⁄₃₂	-⅛	9.32	6.94
111½	105¾	Exch 12¼% 1999	105¾	-⅛	11.66	6.91
108⅝	103⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	103⅝	-⅛	10.10	6.83
99⅝	96⅝	Treas 6% 1999	99⅝	-⅛	6.06	6.71
109¾	105⅞	Conv 10¼% 1999	105⅞	-⅛	9.73	6.74
106½	103⅝	Conv 9% 2000	104⅛	-⅛	8.64	6.66
104⅝	102⅝	Treas 8% 2000	103⅝	-⅛	7.72	6.49
104⅝	102⅝	Treas 8¼% 2000	103⅛	-⅛	8.25	6.70
119⅝	113⅝	Treas 13% 2000	113⅝	-⅛	11.47	6.65
112⅝	98⅝	Treas 10% 2001	108⅝	-⅛	8.17	6.52
102⅝	98⅝	Treas 7% 2001	102⅛	-⅛	6.86	6.34

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103⅝	97⅝	Treas 7% 2002	103⅝	-⅛	6.81	6.33
122¼	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	113⅝	-⅛	8.82	6.29
108⅝	102⅝	Treas 8% 2003	108⅛	-⅛	7.40	6.14
118⅝	111½	Treas 10% 2003	117¼	-⅛	8.52	6.18
116⅝	112⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅛	-⅛	10.16	6.53
92⅝	82⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	92⅝		3.79	4.93
118⅝	109⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	118⅝	-⅛	8.04	6.10
104	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	103⅝	-⅛	6.50	6.02
115⅝	104⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	115⅝	-⅛	7.38	6.01
122⅝	110⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	119⅝	-⅛	7.95	6.07
130⅝	124⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅝	-⅛	9.83	6.17
110⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	110⅝	-⅛	6.80	5.96
111⅝	99⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	111⅛		6.95	6.00
105⅝	100⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	105⅛	-⅛	7.52	6.33
123⅝	115⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅛	-⅛	9.58	6.23
117⅝	105⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	117⅛	-⅛	7.21	5.85

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
109⅝	96⅝	Treas 7¼% 2007	109⅝		6.60	5.90
124⅝	108⅝	Treas 9% 2008	124⅛		7.25	5.89
117⅝	101	Treas 8% 2009	117⅛		6.83	5.91
103⅝	86⅝	Treas 6¼% 2010	103⅝	+⅛	6.07	5.90
128⅝	109⅝	Conv 9% 2011	128⅝		7.03	5.92
129⅝	109⅝	Treas 9% 2012	129⅝	+⅛	6.96	5.93
97⅝	80⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	97⅝	+⅛	5.65	5.76
116⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	116⅝	+⅛	6.64	5.94

LONGS (over 15 years)

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
120⅝	100⅝	Treas 8% 2013	120⅝	+⅛	6.63	5.92
123⅝	101⅝	Treas 8% 2015	123⅝	+⅛	6.48	5.84
133	103⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	133	+⅛	6.58	5.87
127⅝	101⅝	Tr 8% 2021	127⅝	+⅛	6.28	5.81

UNDATED

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
59⅝	43⅝	War Ln 3½%	59⅝	+⅛	5.91	
41¼	30⅝	Treas 2½%	41⅝	+⅛	6.07	
64⅝	49⅝	Consols 4%	63⅝	-⅛	6.26	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

1997/98 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
197⅝	184⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	197⅝	-⅛	2.77	3.11
194⅝	180⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	194⅝	-⅛	2.84	3.07
125⅝	117⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	125⅝	+⅛	2.78	2.97
210⅝	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	210⅝	+⅛	2.86	3.00
191⅝	170⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	191⅝	+⅛	2.86	2.97
200⅝	176⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	200⅝	+⅛	2.87	2.97
166⅝	144⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	166⅝	+⅛	2.86	2.95
181	153⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	181	+⅛	2.86	2.94
176⅝	147⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	176⅝	+⅛	2.88	2.95
148⅝	122⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	145⅝	+⅛	2.87	2.93
148½	119⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	145½	+⅛	2.84	2.90

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Rolls of thunder, flashes of genius

POP
John Martyn
Jazz Café, NW1

JOHN MARTYN was the first white artist Chris Blackwell signed to his Island label and a glittering future seemed assured. But there was always a wilfulness about the Scottish singer-songwriter. At his best he burnt with a rare and shining integrity; at his worst he was downright self-destructive. As a result, Martyn never really became more than a respected cult figure and in recent years has sunk to the level of well-kept secret.

His well-received new album, *Church With One Bell*, indicates a revival in his fortunes, but at the Jazz Café he displayed both his endearing and his infuriating qualities. His banter between songs was incomprehensible and there were lengthy gaps while his band seemed to be wondering what was to come next.

But if that illustrated Martyn's shambling and dysfunctional attitude towards his own creativity, there were also moments of inspired artistry. He swooped and soared and growled and groaned his way through material from the new album. On *He's Got all the Whiskey* his voice was a storming rant, while on Ben Harper's *Excuse Me Mister* he was soulful and chilling. He bravely tackled *Strange Fruit*, a song which Nina Simone has dubbed the most difficult in the world, and it took a particularly ignorant audience to chatter away through a song about lynchings.

The jazzy groove of the band and the sonic box of tricks through which Martyn filtered his electric guitar were a long way from his folk roots, but an acoustic guitar stood on the stage in case he was so moved. He was not. To his credit Martyn is not interested in putting on a night of nostalgia and the only nod to his past was a stunning version of *Solid Air*, full of space and haunting vibes.

He closed with *Glory Box*, a dramatic reinvention of the Portishead song that was almost impossibly emotional. Martyn is erratic, maddening and, in parts, wonderful.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Shaky synthesis

Warm Jets
Bristol

MUCH tabloid attention has been directed at the London-based guitar quartet Warm Jets over the past six months, thanks mainly to a short-lived romance between singer Louis Jones and the television celebrity Zoë Ball. Over the same period, the release of the band's debut album, *Future Signs*, was delayed by their record label for marketing reasons, finally arriving in late February to mixed critical notices. An unhelpful air of hype and expectation now hangs over its creators.

For both lyrical and musical inspiration, the Jets draw heavily on the shiny modernity of early 1980s New Wave, grounded in the dystopian science fiction of J.G. Ballard and David Bowie's synthesizer collaborations with Brian Eno. The band is even named after an early Eno album.

Frustratingly, though, the Jets approach this fertile pop aesthetic with a timid ambivalence, employing electronic instruments and space-age imagery as mere window dressing for largely conventional, guitar-driven rock songs. Their set at Bristol's Fleece and Firkin certainly flouted few orthodoxies, beefing up the brittle, angular pop of *Future Signs* into a chuggingly traditional show.

Within these limitations, the band delivered some attractive melodies with panache. In front of a giant film screen showing images of our robotically mechanised existence, Jones transformed *Autopia* and the new single *Hurricane* into pleasingly muscular numbers. The album's title track also packed an anthemic punch.

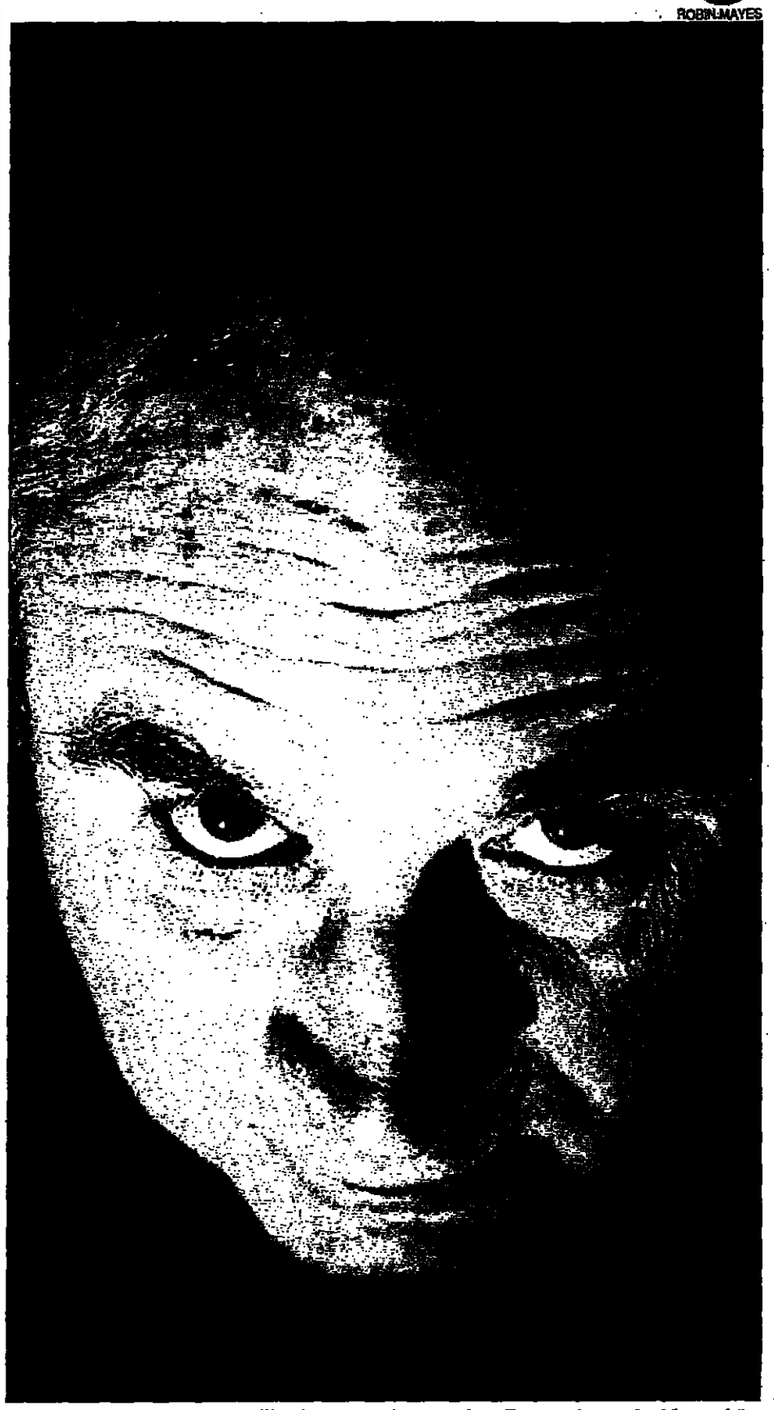
But even so, there was little overall cohesion or momentum to the set. Perhaps the band will blossom in time, much like Radiohead did after their muddled first album, but right now these Jets are no more than lukewarm.

STEPHEN DALTON

His last film bombed, but Bob Hoskins has faith in his next — and in new Labour, he tells **Carol Allen**

The working-class warrior

ROBIN MAYES



Bob Hoskins at 55: "I'm not like they are in Los Angeles. They're obsessed with youth"

Nobody could accuse the actor Bob Hoskins of vanity. "The closest thing I know about my appearance is my chin when I shave in the morning," he says. "I'm not obsessed with youth. I was born old."

Now 55, he claims to be unworried by the advancing years. "I'm not like they are in Los Angeles. They never see the years passing by there because there are no seasons, so they're obsessed with youth."

Hoskins has spent a lot of time in the American film capital, but this week he is home to blow the trumpet for *TwentyFourSeven* (see review, facing page), a film by Nottingham's rising writer-director, 25-year-old Shane Meadows. While Hoskins claims he felt a certain empathy with Meadows because of their physical resemblance — "he's 5ft 6in, cubic with a shaved head" — what really drew him to the project was the young man's talent.

For several years now Meadows has been making short films on video around the streets of Nottingham using his friends as actors. Two of them, *Smalltime* and *Where's The Money Ronnie*, received a limited commercial release last year, and caught the attention of producers Stephen Woolley and Nik Powell, who decided to back Meadows's first full-length feature. They then discovered that Meadows had written the lead with Hoskins in mind.

"They sent me one of Shane's videotapes and I was bowled over," the actor remembers. "Then they showed me the script and I was just amazed at this young guy's insight, compassion and wonderful love of people. Usually you accept a project and then you do your best. But sometimes along comes a project that has chosen you and is asking for far more than your best and the only thing you can do if you've got any sense is surrender. That was *TwentyFourSeven*."

The story is set in and around a Nottingham housing estate in the late Eighties, where both older and younger generations are living lives of barren despair with no hope of employment. Hoskins plays Alan Darcy, a middle-aged unemployed man who is determined to give the local youths a sense of purpose and physical challenge by reviving the boxing club of his own youth.

"The character's a brilliant study of loneliness," explains Hoskins. "On the outside he's this boisterous, tough guy who has the ability to get hold of young kids and make them into fighters, but inside there's this crippling loneliness. He'd make a wonderful father and husband but, like so many people, he just doesn't know how to handle himself in a sexual situation, like chatting up a bird, and he's going to wind up a lonely old man."

> "For 20 years the culture of this country has been suppressed"

Hoskins knew deprivation in his youth, growing up in the postwar days of rationing in a two-roomed flat in Finsbury Park, where the bath was in the kitchen. But as he points out, when he was a young man there was work, there was hope and there was fun. "These kids have only known unemployment and the Conservatism that destroyed that groundwork of hope."

It seems fair to argue that Hoskins's commitment to *TwentyFourSeven* was instrumental in getting the film made, although he maintains that Meadows's talent would have won through with or without him. With regard to another project, however, which Hoskins originated and personally nurtured for the last five years, he is suffering a considerable degree of disappointment. *The Secret Agent*, based on the Joseph Conrad novel, of which he was both executive producer and star, opened and closed last month within a few days, despite some encouraging reviews and a strong cast.

"Fox put up the money for the film and I think they thought they were getting a cheap Victorian James Bond," he explains. "And then they didn't know what to do with it. Although the book has no sympathy for the characters at all, I thought if we could give the audience emotional access to these characters on film, you've got really brilliant classic tragedy like *Oedipus*. I think we did it really well."

Hoskins now has three more films in the pipeline. *Cousin Bette*, due to open in early autumn, is a costume piece based on a story by Balzac. *Captain Jack* is a gentle comedy written by Jack Rosenthal in the eccentric English realism tradition of *Whisky Galore!*. It is loosely based on the true life story of Whitby contemporary folk hero Jack Lammiman, who defied the authorities to take his battered old boat and a motley crew on a quest to the Arctic. And last month Hoskins finished shooting *Live Virgin*, an English-language French project made in America about the pornography industry in Los Angeles, in which Hoskins plays a porn producer, who wears what might be described as the tool of his trade tattooed on his forehead. "This is no *Boogie Nights*," he claims. "Nothing heavy. It's a real French farce."

Like his father, a communist and atheist who now lives with Hoskins and his wife *Linda*, the actor's politics are firmly to the left. And although he has reservations about new Labour, he is optimistic about a renaissance of true working-class culture.

"It's a bit early to tell. They don't seem to be shaping up too well so far but at least they're not getting in the way of the film industry, like Maggie Thatcher did. She thought all arts and drama in this country was leftwing, tried to send them the same way as the miners and virtually succeeded. For 20 years the culture of this country has been suppressed but now we've got rid of the Conservatives, it's going to come through, like grass through concrete.

"As far as the working classes are concerned, they've been a forgotten people. They've a very big tale to tell and now is the time for them to tell it. I think there's going to be a lot more films like *TwentyFourSeven*."

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **LOST HIGHWAY**
PolyGram, 18, 1997
DAVID LYNCH'S bizarre entertainment would baffle Einstein. Time and space are bent out of shape; one character merges into another; paranoia runs rampant. Bill Pullman plays a jazz musician arrested for murdering his wife (Patricia Arquette). Then Pullman's place in his prison cell is taken by another man — an alter ego? — who has an affair with another woman played by Arquette. Lynch crafts the material with his customary precision, but you finally grow tired of its strangeness. Available to rent.

■ **MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING**
Columbia TriStar, 12, 1997
JULIA ROBERTS goes ballistic when best buddy and former lover Dermot Mulroney announces marriage to Cameron Diaz, beautiful offspring of a Chicago tycoon. This could have been mere fluffy nonsense, but the film, directed by P.J. Hogan (*Muriel's Wedding*), treats its characters seriously and is not afraid to be tart. The players are mostly a delight, although the main players fade beside Rupert Everett, stealing all scenes as Roberts's gay friend who flies in to stoke the fires of jealousy by posing, improbably, as Roberts's fiancé. Available to rent.

■ **THAT OLD FEELING**
CIC, 12, 1997
FANS may appreciate Bette Midler's energy, but even her feisty ways cannot do much to stop this romantic comedy feeling like an outdated stage farce. Midler plays an actress whose raging arguments with her former husband (Dennis Farina) threaten to spoil her daughter's wedding. In fact, the one-time partners get between the sheets, which spoils things in another way. Carl Reiner's bald direction puts the emphasis squarely on the performers. Released straight to rental video.

■ **TORMENT**
Eureka, PG, 1944
Meet "Caligula", the Latin teacher at an imposing Swedish school. Looks a bit like Himmler; vies with him, too, in human charms. In the last weeks before the final exams, he delights in picking on a pupil who spends most evenings with a tart. Not that Caligula is without sin there. Ingmar Bergman wrote the script for this cruel and riveting drama, directed with an expressionist flair by Alf Sjöberg. Stig Järrel and Mai Zetterling are particularly impressive as the pedagogue and the prostitute.

■ **TOTAL ECLIPSE**
VCI, 18, 1995
THE publicity material for this puts matters in a nutshell: "The only film in which heartthrob DiCaprio appears fully naked". So much for the perceived appeal of Rimbaud and Verlaine, the poets whose lives together form the basis of this unedifying version of Christopher Hampton's play (written when he was 18). *Leonardo DiCaprio is Rimbaud*, busier belching and spitting than writing poetry; Verlaine, who cheerfully kicks his pregnant wife, is nastily played by David Thewlis. Ugly direction by Agnieszka Holland finishes the whole thing off.

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Cute view of the Russian Revolution

NEW MOVIES: Small children may love *Anastasia*, says **Geoff Brown**, but their parents will be disappointed

So Rasputin did not die on New Year's Eve, 1916, after being poisoned, shot at, thwacked and drowned by sidekicks of Tsar Nicholas II. He merely fell through some ice, uttered a curse that ushered in the Russian Revolution, landed in Purgatory and lived on as a crumbling corpse with an albino bat called Bartók. The moral is clear: don't go to **Anastasia** for a history lesson.

But who would? This is a family cartoon, the first to emerge from Twentieth Century Fox's new animation studio, built for $100 million in Phoenix, Arizona. Like recent Disney cartoons, it draws on the facts and figures of popular history. But its real business is making fairy-tales: and it turns the heroine, Princess Anastasia, into Cinderella or Snow White's kid sister.

Born a Romanov, heir to an empire, she becomes an orphan in the turmoil unleashed by Rasputin. She forgets her past: she wanders in the snow; she picks up a cute dog, joins up with a conman, Dimitri, sings the odd song, and reaches Paris, where her destiny awaits.

As well as Snow White, she is also Meg Ryan. She speaks with Ryan's voice; she has her pointed chin, headstrong ways and petulance. This, too, is par for the course. Hercules, Pocahontas and the Notre Dame Hunchback were all remodelled to match the films' target audience — urban American teenagers. *Anastasia* plays the same Disney game, partnering Ryan's pert miss with John Cusack's Dimitri (tousled hair, crooked nose). Only the old and grotesque speak with Russian accents.

This Disney formula is easy to copy, especially for directors Don Bluth and Gary Goldman, who worked at Disney throughout the 1970s. The Disney magic, though, is more elusive. Rasputin, the bat and the pup never quite justify their existence. The settings are extremely sumptuous, filling the CinemaScope frame. But the characters' movements lack grace; bizarre lines are etched into limbs and faces. Musical numbers are ordinary, although a Parisian knees-up earns points for including Gertrude Stein driving past in a car: surely a first in a family cartoon.

So will the family be delighted? To a small degree, perhaps. Young girls will enjoy the story's romantic sweep, and the fate of the spunky orphan princess. Boys might fancy the ghoulish Rasputin. Parents will be patient, yawn a little, and remember when cartoons were better than this.

Anastasia
Odeon Haymarket
U, 94 mins
The Romanovs fall, and get animated

TwentyFourSeven
Warner West End
15, 97 mins
Shane Meadows spreads his wings

Mother and Son
Renoir, U, 73 mins
Something stark and moving from Russia

Les Voleurs
Metro, 18, 117 mins
Intellectual crime drama

Best Men
ABC Shaftesbury Ave
15, 89 mins
Bank robbery mucks up wedding day

Double Team
Virgin Trocadero
18, 93 mins
With Jean-Claude Van Damme. Say no more

Was my hearing correct? Did Bob Hoskins really say that dancing with his auntie "gives me the quilting to hide my loneliness"? Probably so, for **TwentyFourSeven**, the first full-length feature from Britain's 25-year-old directorial hopeful, Shane Meadows, makes a point of acting fancy. The basic plot could be written on a matchbox: a social worker (Hoskins, of course) revives a boxing club and gives provincial delinquent youth a sense of purpose. But there is nothing basic about Meadows's approach. We get lyrical black-and-white photography, pensive narration, chunks of slow-motion, and meditative shots like the close-up of the lovelorn Hoskins placing a hand on a shopgirl's fingerprints, left on the counter top.

Coming from Meadows, this amount of conscious art is surprising. Both his 60-minute feature *Smalltime* and his short, *Where's The Money Ronnie*, rejoiced in raw camerawork and lives caught on the hop. There was no sign of a film school student trying to impress: this was a director who had no formal training and was actually thrown out of college. Now, under pressure perhaps from his increased budget, he seems to have gone back to school. The visual packaging is smoother, but the spontaneity has gone. You feel the calculation as the film swaps stylistic hats, lurches between slapstick and sentiment and pulls its slim plotline too far, too pretentiously.

We start with Hoskins's character, found close to death in an abandoned railway carriage. The pages of his diary then lead the way back in time to Thatcher's Britain, when he starts his mission to activate youth and avoid the aimless boredom that fills their lives 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Character vignettes come and go, and the youngsters' ineptitude in the ring is gradually knocked out of them.

Luckily, no amount of arty shots or talk about quilting ever destroys Meadows's affection for unrefined youth. Although Hoskins's performance staggers between the trite and the touching, the youngsters (some professional, some plucked from the streets) roister and banter with conviction. Meadows's talent for anarchic wit, salty dialogue, observation and compassion remains a precious commodity in the new British cinema. But, for all the high expectations and the accompanying hype, any honest assessment of *TwentyFourSeven* must be mixed. Next time, Shane, don't try so hard.

Perhaps he could learn tips from Alexandr Sokurov and his wonderfully moving **Mother and Son**. This Russian director is a master of the "watching paint dry" school of film-making. The camera stares fixedly at images whose sombre texture, shape and shade have been exquisitely designed, with an eye on the German Romantic paintings of Caspar David Friedrich. Time in a Sokurov film moves slowly, and if a spell is not cast, you are doomed. Aestheticism run riot? It has felt so, sometimes, in the past. But not here, for the film concerns feelings and experiences so basic and universal that you cannot sit idly by.

Mother and son are the only characters in a cheerless landscape of fields, forests and one passing train, buffeted by wind and rain. She is dying. He comforts her, feeds her, reads to her, cradles her in his arms and leans her against a birch tree on a last excursion into the outside world. Not much is spoken. Little needs to be said: the gaunt and haunted faces of Sokurov's performers, Gudrun Geyer and Alexei Ananishnov, are expressive enough. Sometimes Sokurov creates with his camera lens a hypnotic blurred effect; but nothing is blurred about the film's focus on the most awesome experience life has to offer.

This may make the film sound like something to flee from. In fact love, not death, is its true subject. You see this in the pair's devotion, the tender and nurturing gestures that culminate in the son rubbing his face along the mother's inert hand. Sokurov's devotion shines through, too. For in a world that shouts the opposite, he declares in *Mother and Son* that cinema is still an art form, strong and austere, capable of moving mountains.

André Téchiné believes this as well, although his film Les Voleurs, made in 1996, is not quite his best advertisement. This is a crime drama of sorts, and a very French sort. Intellectual, fractured, it probes the psychological bonds between two brothers (one a cop, the other a car smuggler), a lesbian professor, a brother and sister, and a ten-year-old child. Téchiné skilfully juggles his images, and builds a beautiful jigsaw. But we remain at a distance, emotionally unengaged, even when two of French cinema's biggest stars mount a charm offensive. Catherine Deneuve shimmers quietly in dull cardigans and specs as the maternal professor; while Daniel Auteuil lends more warmth to his selfish cop than the character properly deserves.

Back to America for some odds and ends. Tamra Davis's **Best Men**, made in association with the now-deceased Rank Film Distributors, is a muddled comedy-drama, featuring Dean Cain, Sean Patrick Flanery and Drew Barrymore. The comedy arrives early on, when a bridegroom's buddy robs a bank en route to the wedding. The serious stuff emerges as people thrash out personal problems and get shot by the FBI. Neither part of the film is convincing.

At least **Double Team** knows what it wants to sell: Jean-Claude Van Damme's muscles, a very silly James Bond-ish plot, an American basketball star (Dennis Rodman) and stunts galore. Van Damme's acting remains invisible, but the direction of Hong Kong cult figure Tsui Hark peps up the action highlights.



Thrills for the little ones: Dimitri and Anastasia encounter a hairy situation in their escape from revolutionary Russia

SNAP VERDICT

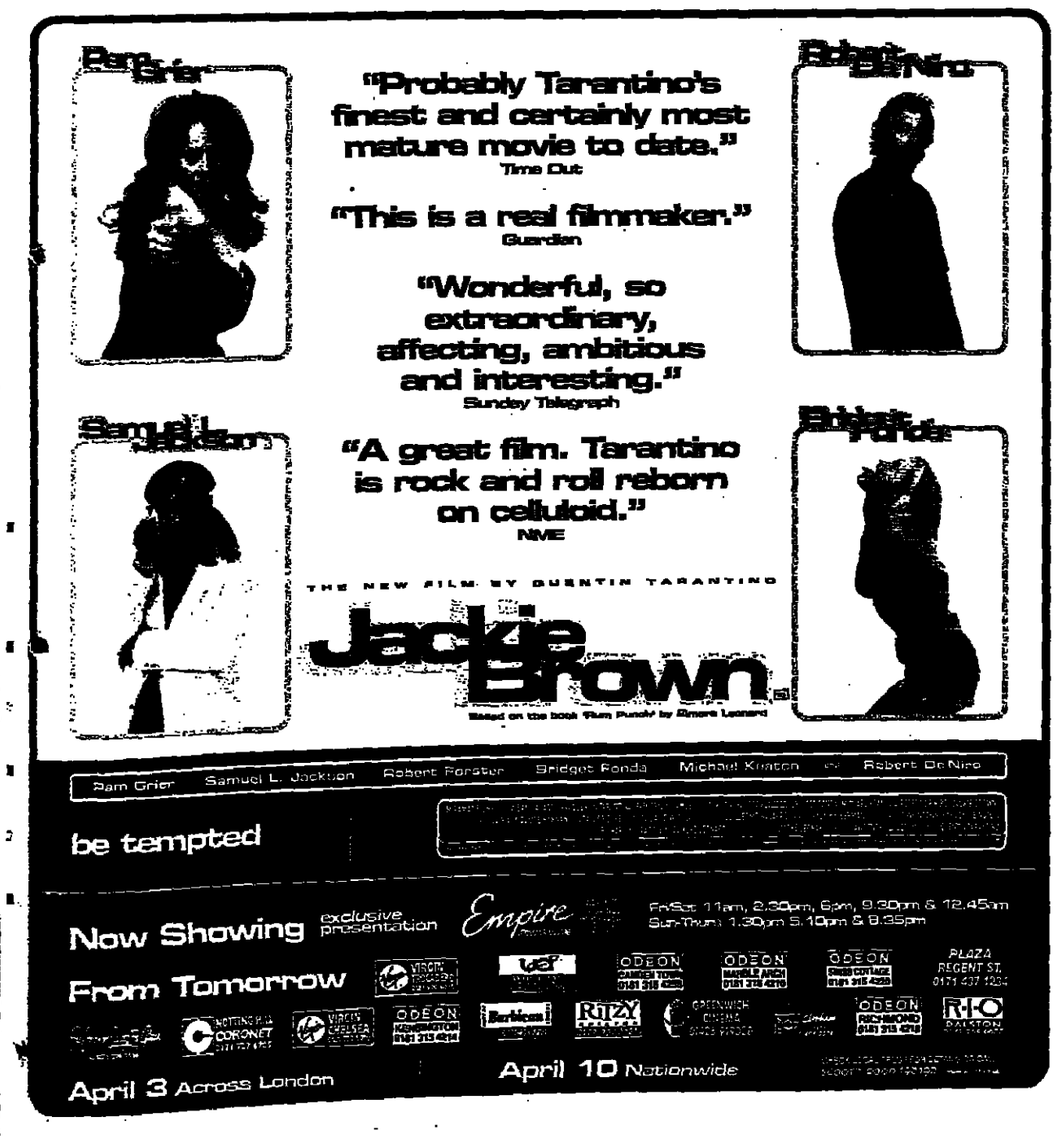
'Really quite lovely'

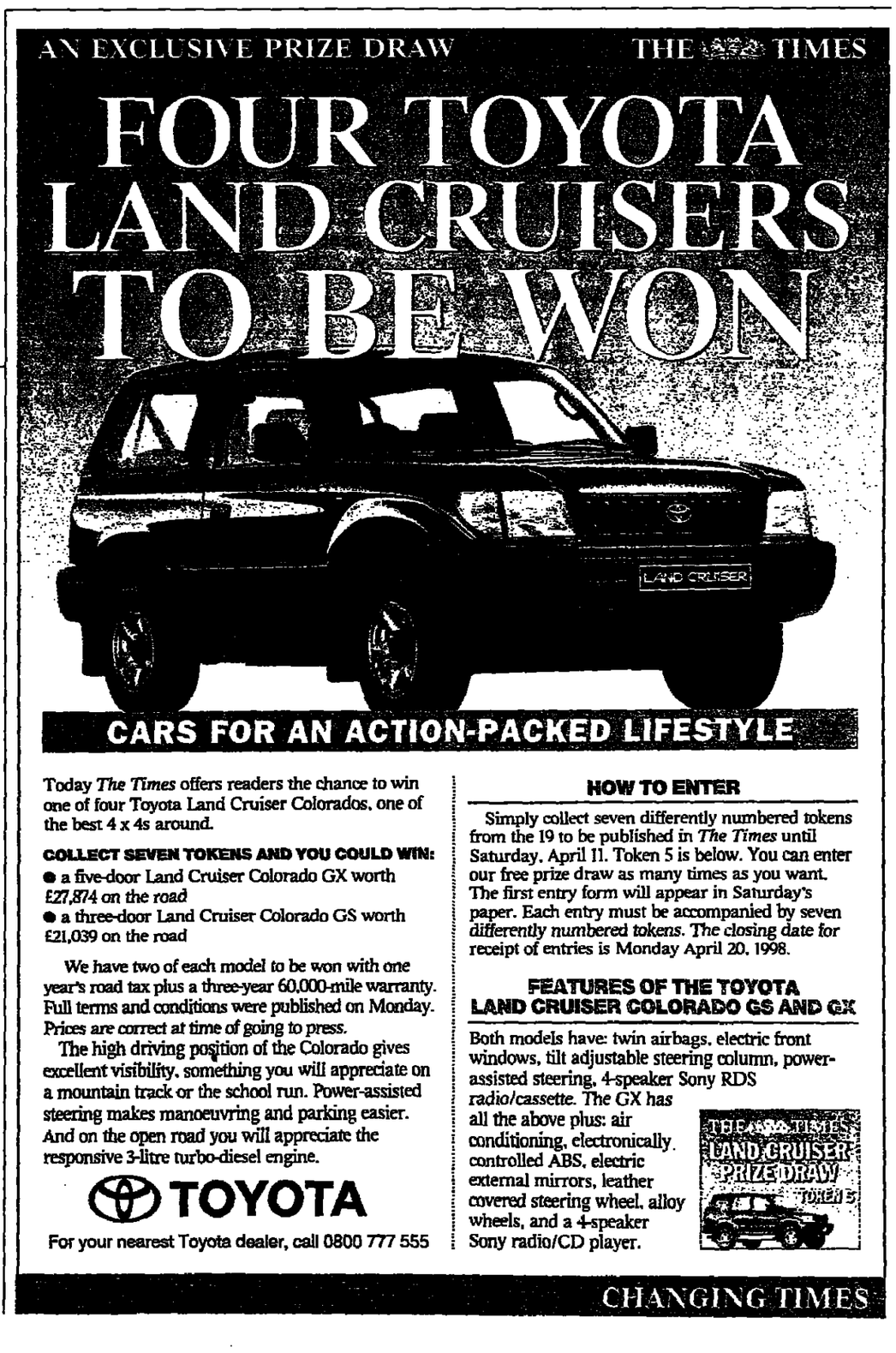
Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases . . .

■ *ANASTASIA*
Emma Rolph, 19: A fast-paced, eye-popping animated film. Children are bound to love it.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Twentieth Century Fox tries to copy Disney. This film doesn't quite work, but it's a brave effort.
Dom Young, 19: Really quite lovely. A movie to take the whole family to.
Sarah Crook, 18: Peopled with delightful characters, this movie leaves you with a spring in your step.

■ *TWENTYFOURSEVEN*
Emma: A clichéd story filled with clichéd characters. Stay away.
Leslie: This is *Trainspotting* without the drugs. Not recommended.
Dom: Don't be put off by the fact that it's in black and white. Be put off because it's a rubbish movie.
Sarah: Unfortunately, the odd chunk of clever dialogue is not enough to save this patchy movie.

■ *LES VOLEURS*
Emma: *Les Voleurs* has an interesting look and fascinating characters.
Leslie: Don't be discouraged by the sub-titles. This is a very enjoyable movie.
Dom: The French can really make films. Great entertainment.
Sarah: This movie has really opened up my mind to foreign-language films.





هكذا من الأصل

LONDON

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM: A concert performance of Weber's hybrid opera Oberon is the second programme in this unconventional series of three concerts where the City of London Sinfonia performs works inspired by Shakespeare's touching love story. Richard Hickox conducts the orchestra joined by the London Symphony Chorus and an array of noted soloists including John Daszak, Alan Opie, Jean Rigby and Susan Gritton.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Tonight, 7 30pm.

THE MISANTHROPE. Elaine Paige plays Célimene, with Michael Pennington as Alceste in a cast that includes Anna Carteret, Peter Bowles and David Yelland. Peter Hall directs a new translation of Molière by Ranjit Bolt.
Piccadilly Theatre, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire

PIANO SERIES: The Canadian pianist Louis Lortie rides to the rescue as he replaces the indisposed Maria João Pires in tonight's recital. He performs two Beethoven sonatas and Schumann's Fantasy in C.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7 30pm +

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA: The distinguished Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer joins the PO under John Eliot Gardiner for a performance of Sibelius's brooding Violin Concerto flanked by Elgar's tone-poem *In the South* and Brahms's powerful First Symphony.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 7 30pm

ELSEWHERE

BASINGSTOKE: A visit by the London Mozart Players under Matthias Bamert offers an evening of music by Beethoven, Robin Holloway, Dvořák and Tchaikovsky. For the latter's Rococo Variations the chamber orchestra is joined by the excellent English cellist Raphael Wallfisch.
Anvil, Churchill Lane (01256 844244). Tonight, 7 45pm

COVENTRY: The Good Companions, Priestley's joyous story of a touring concert party in the Twenties, adapted and set to music by Bob Eaton and Sayan Kent.
Belgrade, Belgrade Square, (01203 553055) Opens tonight, 7 30pm. Then Mon-Thur, 7 30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2 30pm and Sat, 4pm



Ingo Metzmacher conducts in Newcastle

GLASGOW: After a ten-year separation the recently reformed cult 1980s rockers **Echo & The Bunnymen** are now enjoying a popular resurgence — not least due to the group being selected to sing this year's World Cup theme tune. The group's new national tour is launched here tonight.
Barrowlands, Gallowgate (0141-552 4601) Tonight, 7pm

NEWCASTLE: The pioneering young maestro Ingo Metzmacher, recently appointed music director of the Hamburg State Opera, continues to conduct the **Bamberg Symphony Orchestra** on its current tour of Britain. A programme spanning three centuries ends off with the serialist composer K.A. Hartmann's *Miserae*, followed by Mahler's Fifth Symphony and Mozart's Third Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, with Christian Tetzlaff as soloist.
City Hall, Northumberland Road (0191-261 2606) Tonight, 7.45pm.

OXFORD: World premiere of the excellent Sebastian Barry's new play, **Our Lady of Sligo**, with Sinead Cusack, Nigel Terry and Catherine Cusack. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out Of Joint.
Playhouse Theatre, 11-12 Beaumont Street (01865 798600) Previews from tonight, 7 30pm. Opens March 30, 7 30pm. Then Mon-Thur and Sat, 7 30pm; Fri, 8pm. Until April 4

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: The Art of the Harley. (0171-638 8891) **Dulwich:** Italy in the Age of Turner (0181-693 5254) . **Goethe Institute:** Berlin Photographs by Gerhard Ullmann (0171-594 0214) **Hayward:** Francis Bacon (0171-928 3144) . **National:** Anthony Caro (0171-747 2885) **Royal Academy:** Icons and the rise of Moscow (0171-300 8000) . **Saatchi:** Alex Katz (0171-624 8299) . . **Serpentine:** Piero Manzoni (0171-402 6075) . **Tate:** Pierre Bonnard (0171-887 8000)

Rakes behaving badly



Fair sex, strong sex and terrific sex all round: Sharon Small, Ben Miles and Caroline Quentin play it for laughs

The London Cuckolds
Lyttelton

If you wanted to carp, you could say that Edward Ravenscroft, who wrote this play in 1681, was not as tough as Etherege or as witty as Congreve. You could add that today he would probably be penning TV sitcoms, for there is something predictable about the plot of *The London Cuckolds* and formulaic about its serial intrigues. But that doesn't quite explain why the piece was regularly revived deep into the 18th century, or why this is its third major production in the past two decades.

The truth is that it is a very funny play. Indeed, as Terry Johnson has adapted and directed it, more farce than comedy. The hero, Ben Miles's genial Ramble, yearns to be a good Restoration rake, but turns out instead to be a Clouseau of the bedchamber. Three women, all married to respectable merchants, are avid to succumb to his advances; but again and again he is interrupted on the brink of bliss, and again and again his laidback friend Townly, who is more interested in booze than sex, takes his place between the sheets. Those who don't try get, and those who try too hard don't get: an erotic moral for all eras.

Not that Ravenscroft is a moralising writer: quite the opposite. Though Johnson blunts the point by allowing Nigel Lindsay's urbane Townly to adopt a barrow-boy accent, he is still celebrating the triumph of the Cavaliers over the Roundheads, the raffish gentlemen over the stolid players. Robin Soans's sour Wiseacres, who has followed the example of Arnolphe in Molière's *School for Wives* by bringing up a rustic ignoramus to be his wife and sexual slave, deserves his cuckolding. But the only faults of Anthony O'Donnell's Doodle and William Chubb's Dashwell are being middle-class, naff, dull, and too trusting of, respectively, Caroline Quentin's splendidly strong, wayward Arabella and Sharon Small's sly, fake-religious Eugenia.

Every version of the original play that I have seen has been slightly different, and maybe Johnson has trimmed too often, touched up the 18th-century argot too obviously, and, as director, added too much knockabout. But the visual jokes — down to the one in which a disguised swain walks with head held back to avoid losing his false moustache — are mostly amusing. And they are in the spirit of a piece in which the hero variously gets stuck in a sewer, drenched with a chamberpot, robbed by chimney sweeps, interrupted by cries of "fire", forced to hide by returning husbands — and, in the most original scene, exorcised by a rival who has the cheek to pretend to be a conjuror casting out a devil.

No, Ravenscroft wasn't Etherege, Wycherley or Congreve, but in one respect he bested them. More than any playwright, he answers Lawrence's claim that Restoration drama was smutty and contemptuous of sex. In his London (enjoyably evoked, incidentally, by William Dudley's mix of period architecture, pastiche stage scenery, and a half-visible, half-built St Paul's) a cheerful carnality does not merely prevail but crosses the gender-gap. Most of the men think sex terrific, and so, quite unapologetically, do all the women. Altogether, a likeable occasion.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie



THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **ANTIGONE.** Forbidden Theatre Co perform Gwynne Edwards's new translation of the Sophocles tragedy as part of the Greece in Britain Festival.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237 1111). Tue-Sat, 7 45pm. Until April 5

☐ **DEEP SPACE.** Alex Johnston acts in his own play with Patrick Leech: two ex-students seething with sexual jealousy in a Dublin flat. Jimmy Fay directs for Bedrock Theatre.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until April 11

☐ **FLIGHT:** Kenneth Cranham and Alan Howard, with Abigail Cruttenden making her National Theatre debut, in Mikhail Bulgakov's rich and satiric epic (1928) of émigrés fleeing from the Russian Civil War.
National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000) Tonight-Sat, 7 15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. In repertoire

☐ **HAMLET:** Alex Jennings plays the Prince in Matthew Warchus's production up from Stratford. With Derbhle Crotty as Ophelia, Paul Freeman as Claudius.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7 15pm, mats today and Sat, 2pm. In repertoire

☐ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND.** Now in its fifth London theatre. Peter Hall's excellent production, brimful of deceptions. Starring Christopher Cazenove, Kate O'Mara and Simon Ward.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7 45pm; mats Thur, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

☐ **KAT AND THE KINGS.** Ebullient new 1950s rock'n'roll musical about a South African group that never quite existed.
Vaudeville Theatre. The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Thur, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 5 30pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **A LETTER OF RESIGNATION:** Edward Fox and Clare Higgins play Harold Macmillan and Lady Dorothy in Hugh Whitemore's play about the effects of the Profumo scandal.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7 45pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

☐ **THE NORMAL HEART:** Revival of Larry Kramer's arresting drama, the first AIDS play, directed by Richard Bridge. The tension could be overwhelming in this intimate venue.
Men in the Moon, 392 Kings Rd, SW3 (0171-351 2678) Tue-Sun, 7 30pm.

◪ **SAUCY JACK AND THE SPACE VIXENS:** David Schofield plays the saucy one in sci-fi musical described as super-cool and deliciously decadent.
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Previews from March 19, 8pm. Opens March 25, 7pm. Then Mon-Thur, 8pm; Fri, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; Sat, 4pm and 8.30pm

☐ **THE SURGEON OF HONOUR:** Calderon's dark drama of fear, cruelty and the obsession with honour, directed by Judith Roberts for Other Ranks Theatre Co. Part of the current Spanish season.
Southwark Playhouse, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-620 3494). Mon-Sat, 7 30pm. Until April 4.

☐ **THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE:** Alan Ayckbourn directs Jane Asher in his new comedy about a surprising love and its unsurprising consequences on lovers. Unforgettably ingenious set.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thur and Sat, 3pm

NEW RELEASES

◆ **GATTACA** (15): Cool and chic sci-fi movie about genetic engineering, with Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman and Jude Law. Director, Andrew Niccol.
UCI Whiteleys ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0181-970 6015) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

JACKIE BROWN (15). Pam Grier's money smuggler tries wriggling out of trouble. Entertaining adaptation of Elmore Leonard's comic thriller from Quentin Tarantino, with an excellent cast (Robert Forster, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert De Niro, Michael Keaton, Bridget Fonda).
Empire ◪ (0990 888990)

LOVE, ETC. (15): Two friends and one wife form a triangle. Agreeable French trifle from Julian Barnes's novel *Talking It Over*. With Charlotte Gainsbourg, Yvan Attal, and Charles Berling. Director, Manon Vernoux.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

◆ **THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK** (12): Deception and thrills at the court of Louis XIV. Dullish new version of the Dumas novel, with an attractive cast (Leonardo DiCaprio, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich, Gabriel Byrne, Gérard Depardieu). Director, Randall Wallace.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Odeons: Camden Town (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636)

CURRENT

◆ **AS GOOD AS IT GETS** (15): Obsessive-compulsive Jack Nicholson tries to become a better person. Crowd-pleasing, manipulative comedy-drama from James L. Brooks, nominated for six Oscars. With Helen Hunt and Greg Kinnear.
ABC Tottenham Ct Rd (0171-636 6148) **Clapham PH** (0171-498 3323) **Greenwich** (0181-235 3005) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Camden** (0181-315 4255) **Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0181-970 6015)

◆ **THE ICE STORM** (15): Connecticut families in 1973 have sex on the brain. Wonderfully observant social drama, directed by Ang Lee, with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◪ (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

WAG THE DOG (15): Hollywood producer Dustin Hoffman stages a phoney war to deflect the US public from a presidential scandal. Spry political satire, with Robert De Niro and Anne Heche. Director, Barry Levinson.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham PH** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** ◪ (0990 888990) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **WILDE** (15): Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde: fine and touching, though the film is more timid than you might expect.
ABC Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

All that jazz? What jazz?

RADIO

If you ring up Radio 3 and ask about its commitment to jazz, it will gush commitment from every pore. Listen to Nicholas Kenyon, the network's Controller, any time he is asked about jazz and you could easily gain the impression that he would love to have jazz all over the schedule.

In fact for many years Radio 3 disgracefully marginalised jazz. I put that in the past tense only because, along with other jazz fans, I am overwhelmed with gratitude at the small improvement being brought about with the promotion of *Jazz Notes* (Monday to Thursday) by an hour to 11.30pm. After years under a clear sky, our throats rasping, a tiny cloud has deposited a film of water on our faces and we are grateful beyond measure.

But what about the need for *more* jazz? That seemed to be tackled with the recent announcement that the network had hired Jez Nelson, the famed Jazz FM presenter, to front a new Saturday night jazz programme. Surely Nelson, so committed to jazz that he started a pirate radio station to broadcast the stuff, would not be leaving a three-hour show on Jazz FM for a trifle on Radio 3?

Well, the new programme starts on Saturday week. Called *Jazz on 3*, it will run for 90 minutes, clearly a huge improvement on the old programme, which was called *Impressions* and ran for two hours. Hold on while I spray WD40 on the bit that does the sums: isn't two hours longer than 90 minutes? Yes, I thought it was. Yet according to the BBC, the arrival of *Jazz on 3* "reflects Radio 3's commitment [that word again] to presenting a wide-ranging, cutting-edge review of contemporary jazz trends".

Much like those odd marketing stunts in supermarkets, the new packaging is impressive even if the contents have mysteriously shrunk. *Jazz on 3* is a better title than *Impressions*, which sounded like something to do with Rory Bremner. But having a lousy name doesn't make one a bad person, and the same applies to programmes.

Impressions, co-presented by Alyn Shipton and Brian Morton, had its final outing last Saturday with a cracking show from New Orleans which showed jazz to be thriving in the city that too many people associate with croaking clarinet players who won't see 70 again except on a thermometer. Nelson's "cutting edge" will need to be sharp indeed if *Jazz on 3* is to improve on its predecessor.

PETER BARNARD

ART GALLERIES

BRITISH ANTIQUE DEALERS' ASSOCIATION FAIR Duke of York's Headquarters (Nr Sloane Sq), King's Rd, Chelsea, SW3. 25-31 March. Open Wkdays 11-8pm, Sun & last day until 6pm. Info: 0171 730 6730.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. Exhibition 26 March-19 April. Daily 10-5. Mall Galleries, The Mall (Nr Admiralty Arch), London SW1.

The Air Gallery (0171 409 1516) 32 Dover St. London W1 Contemporary Sculpture from Zimbabwe March 23rd - April 4th

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Home team: Michael Holroyd, Timberlake Wertenbaker and Harold Pinter. "Why do we value the dead at the expense of the living?" laments Holroyd. "It's demoralising"



Playing away: Peter Ackroyd, Fay Weldon and Tom Stoppard. "I was quite pleased to get rid of the material because it was taking up so much space," says an unapologetic Ackroyd

America buys the write stuff

Top British writers are selling their archives to the US at an alarming rate. **Daniel Rosenthal** reports

On a sunny August afternoon Tom Connolly, a once-celebrated Irish novelist now troubled by writer's block and mounting debts, is nervously pacing the garden of his Donegal home. He will soon learn if his guest, literary agent David Knight, is going to offer "a small fortune" to buy his manuscripts and correspondence for an American university library. The money would save him from imminent financial ruin.

This scene unfolds near the start of Brian Friel's *Give Me Your Answer, Do!*, which has its London premiere on Monday. Connolly and Knight are fictional creations, but Friel's premise reflects a real-life practice which is causing much anguish in literary and academic circles.

In the past ten years some of our finest poets, dramatists and novelists have sold their archives to American institutions. University librarians on this side of the Atlantic have watched sadly as the papers of Ted Hughes, David Hare, Tom Stoppard and Peter Ackroyd have been shipped to campuses in Georgia, Texas or Massachusetts.

"Friel's play touches on the lunatic situation we are in," says the literary biographer, Michael Holroyd. "We are allowing papers which should be considered an important part of the national heritage to leak away."

The leakage began in the Thirties, when the University of Buffalo acquired numerous English poets' manuscripts. In 1958 Philip Larkin, having rejected Buffalo's advances, wrote that "it is frankly absurd for the manuscripts of British authors to go to America".

In recent years, with less and less material from previous centuries or prewar decades coming on to the market, top American buyers have started offering five- or occasionally six-figure sums to living authors with perhaps 15 books or plays still in them, rather than waiting to approach literary estates.

The advent of the lottery might have offered a lifeline to UK institutions, in particular the British Library, whose curator of modern literary manuscripts, Sally Brown, is often "extremely frustrated" at losing out to wealthier American rivals. However, since the Heritage Lottery Fund "will not normally consider funding" the purchase of living authors' archives, lottery millions remain tantalisingly out of our libraries' reach.

To many, it seems absurd that the fund contributed £123,000 to the purchase of Sir John Betjeman's library last November, yet would not have paid for the papers of Betjeman's successor as Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, which were sold to Emory University in Atlanta just a few months earlier. "Why do we value the dead at the expense of the living?" laments Holroyd. "It's utterly demoralising, and the guidelines [currently under review] must be changed."

Aside from the loss of our literary heritage, he adds, the export of archives will have other consequences. "As a biographer, there is no substitute for handling your subject's papers. To do that, biographers are having to travel further, and increased travel costs will be passed on to the public in the cost of the published biography."

Holroyd does not blame authors for taking advantage of lucrative offers for their papers ("You can't expect them to give away capital which many regard as their pension scheme"), and the writer Peter Ackroyd makes no apology for selling his hand-written manuscripts to the Beinecke Rare Books Library at Yale in 1994.

"I was quite pleased to get rid of the material because it was taking up so much space," he says. "I'm not sure I would have been happier to see it go to a British university, because I don't think the geographical location makes much difference. With technology, most material can find its way to a scholar's desk in some form."

Not all authors share his view. Harold Pinter gave his manuscripts to the British Library on permanent loan in 1993, and when Timberlake Wertenbaker received an offer from an American university for her archive last year, at a time when she was "under financial pressure", she said no.

"I am British, all of my work has been produced in England, and I was uncomfortable with the idea of my manuscripts leaving the country," she says. "I was therefore delighted when I heard the British Library had acquired the drafts of my plays. I am very pleased that British students can come and look at how plays change. The same students would have found it virtually impossible to get to America."

Friel declined to be interviewed for this article — except to state, via his agent, that he has not sold his papers — so one can only speculate as to whether the catalyst for *Give Me Your Answer, Do!* was an approach from an American university. He cannot have chosen "a university in Texas" as the would-be purchaser of the Connolly archive by accident, since the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Centre, at the University of Texas at Austin, has long dominated the contemporary manuscripts scene.

It has dipped into vast endowments left by Texan oil barons to acquire the archives of Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene and, in the Nineties, Hare, Stoppard, Penelope Fitzgerald, John Fowles, Dan Jacobson and Penelope Lively.

"People in Britain are constantly wringing their hands about Austin and I understand the concern," says Thomas Staley, the centre's director. "But our main goal is to ensure that important archives are kept intact, not auctioned off piecemeal. Which would you rather: Sotheby's selling stuff by the page to private buyers, or Austin providing well-catalogued access to complete archives for scholars from all over the world?"

Lest anyone believe that it is Austin's agents, not the authors, who always make the first move in an archive sale, Staley says he has "lost count" of how often colleagues have related variations on this basic story: "A 'famous' English novelist wants to sell his archive to, say, King's College, Cambridge. He tells their librarian: 'I must warn you that Austin is very interested . . .' In fact, Austin doesn't know anything about it — he's just trying to boost his value."

● Give Me Your Answer, Do! *opens at the Hampstead Theatre, NW3, on Monday (0171-722 9301)*

STAYERS AND LEAVERS

■ **Some living British writers whose manuscripts/papers are held in British libraries:**
Al Alvarez, Simon Armitage, Barbara Taylor Bradford, Kevin Crossley-Holland, John Heath-Stubbs, Tom Paulin, Harold Pinter, Muriel Spark (partial archive), Edward Upward, Timberlake Wertenbaker.

■ **. . . . and some whose papers are held in America:**
Peter Ackroyd, Malcolm Bradbury, Penelope Fitzgerald, John Fowles, David Hare, Ted Hughes, Dan Jacobson, Penelope Lively, Iris Murdoch, Alan Silitoe, Muriel Spark (partial archive), Tom Stoppard, Fay Weldon.

Fours of character

CONCERT

Emerson Quartet
Barbican

When Dvořák, in his *American Quartet*, obliquely encouraged his pupils in the New World to make use of the music of their native land, he hadn't bargained for the appearance of the maverick Charles Ives. The juxtaposition of the Czech composer's String Quartet in F and Ives's Second String Quartet, in a programme which also included a new work from the youngest generation of American composers, offered yet another angle on the musical invention of America as it is being teased out in the Barbican's continuing festival.

And who better than the Emerson Quartet to make the connections? These players are uniquely skilled at fusing the sophistication of the Old World with the rough-hewn energy of the New. The *American Quartet* thrives on the excitement of such an encounter, and this was a thrilling performance. The Emersons turned a near-blind eye to the direction "ma non troppo" which moderates the speed of the outer movements, and began and ended the work in exuberant high spirits.

They needed, perhaps, to psyche themselves and their audience up for the Ives to come. The Second Quartet (1907-13) is an occasionally amusing but finally maddening attempt by the composer to unsettle the complacent listener with a piece "for four men who converse, discuss, argue (politics), fight, shake hands, shut up, then walk up the mountainside to view the firmament". The Emersons performed all these functions with robust dedication, but without providing sharp enough contrasts to set the music's maverick character into relief, and so relieve its longueurs.

Not a single note too many, though, in Edgar Meyer's Quintet. Meyer is a double-bassist who stops at nothing, from blues to bluegrass, from jazz to folk and classical.

The Quintet is an unassuming, deftly structured and highly imaginative work. The first movement circles in variations round a blithe rocking theme characterised by those wide open-air intervals the ear always associates with the Big Country; the second busily busks its way along in a laconic undertone. The third converses in sombre, slow-moving counterpoint, and the finale skirls in a stylish hoedown of toe-tapping irresistibility.

HILARY FINCH

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: A filmstar tenor and a formidable pianist

OPERETTA

John Higgins

■ **THE LEGENDARY RICHARD TAUBER**
EMI CMS5666922 (2 discs)
★★ *£15.99*
A GENEROUS double serving of Tauber covers his joint career in opera and operetta. His life switched direction in 1925 when Franz Lehár persuaded him to take the title role in *Paganini*. Tauber's personal success was so great that he became *the* Lehár tenor right through to the final stage work, *Giuditta*.

The great Lehár roles are here in recordings from the late 1920s and early 1930s. Tauber was basically a lyric tenor, but he had the vocal swagger of a heavyweight. Above all he was a popular entertainer, who as the illegitimate son of a Viennese actress was born into show business. The much reiterated charms of that city come in numbers by Strauss, Stolz and others, some clipped from Tauber's many films.

The disc devoted to opera demonstrates the tenor's extraordinary range of repertoire, embracing everything from the simple songs of Lortzing to the heroics of Manrico. And there is *Nessun dorma* from 1926 with a very spindly orchestra under George Szell. Warning: the sound quality and overall remastering is very variable.

PIANO

Hilary Finch

■ **DEBUSSY**
Preludes I & II, etc
Zoltán Kocsis
Philips 456 568-2 (2 discs)
★★★ *£30.99*
IN THE light of Zoltán Kocsis's recent appointment as music director of Hungary's National Philharmonic Orchestra, it is good to be reminded that Kocsis's unique artistry as a pianist is by no means compromised by his conducting activity. Kocsis visits this country all too infrequently so; for the time being, these discs must prove the point magnificently.

Kocsis's playing fuses a formidable intellect with the liveliest of musical imaginations and an ever expanding technique. These make for highly distinctive Debussy, as earlier recordings have shown, and for particularly perceptive Preludes. The evocation of a Classical frieze in the *Danseuses de Delphe* works on a rare two levels here: Kocsis gives springing levitation to the footfall of the dancers and brings a luminosity to the chords which reveal them to be frozen in time.

Baudelaire wrote that "genius is no more than childhood recaptured at will". His words apply as well to Kocsis as to Debussy in his fresh performances of *Children's Corner*. And that genius continues to reveal itself in the second book of Preludes and performances of works such as the *Nocturne* and the *Ballade slave* which follow.

ORCHESTRAL

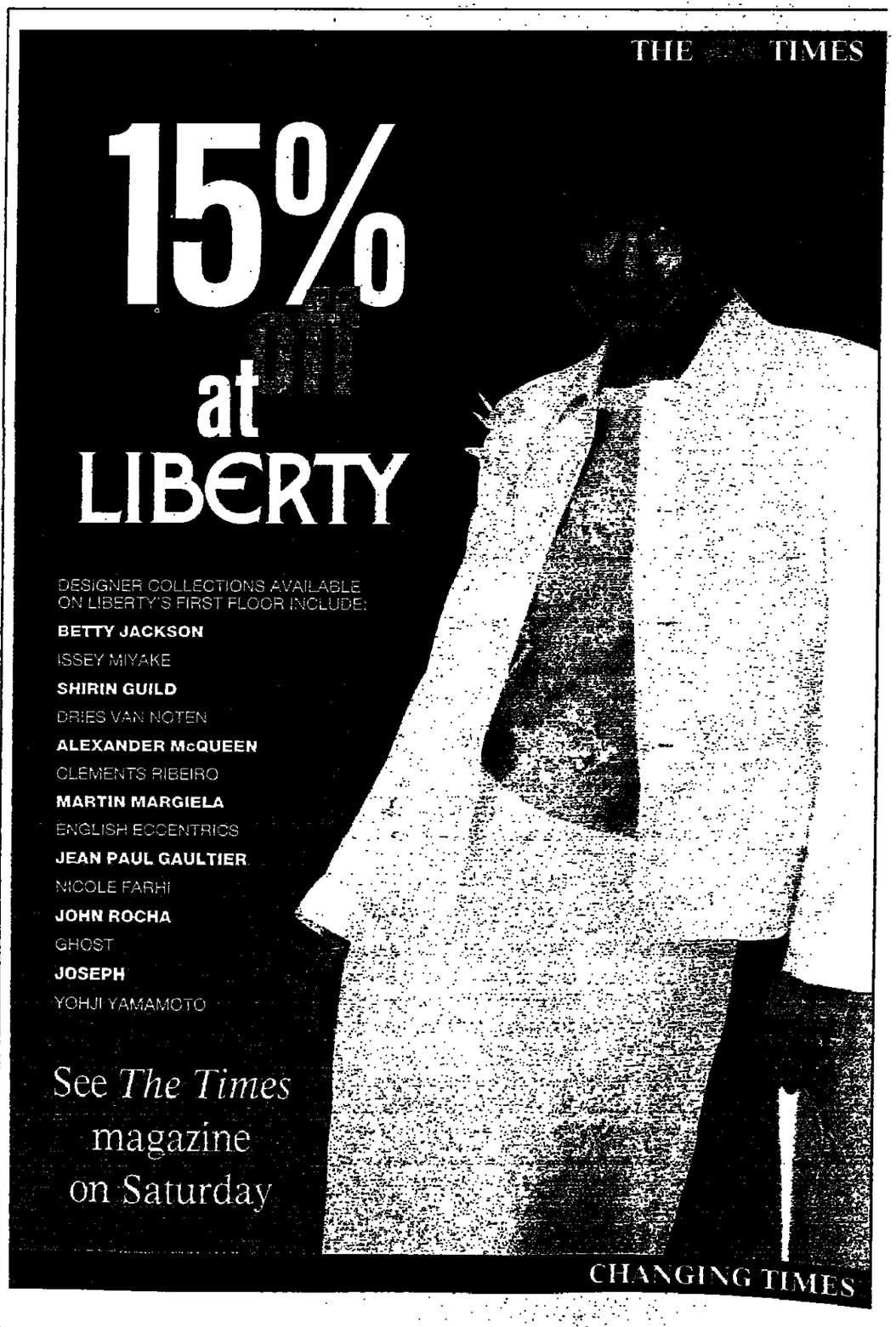
Barry Millington

■ **SCHUMANN**
Complete Symphonies; Overture, Scherzo and Finale; Konzertstück
ORR/Gardiner
Archiv 457 591-2 (3 discs) ★★★
£30.99
LAST year, a series of live performances of Schumann symphonies by John Eliot Gardiner and his Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique caused little short of a sensation. It was not the first time they had been played on period instruments, but there was something uniquely convincing about those performances, now captured on three superbly engineered discs, that demanded a wholesale reevaluation of the works.

Who, after hearing the glowing sonorities and delicate shadings of Gardiner's *Spring* or *Rhenish* (the symphonies are played with a band of 50 players, such as the composer had at his disposal in Leipzig), or the subtle, lilting phrasing of the Second or Fourth (given in both versions), could ever return to those once-classic recordings of Sawallisch or Karajan? The latter are impossibly turgid by comparison, the phrasing often undistinguished too. Gardiner's shaping of slow movements is exquisite, while his lithe fast movements are equally fine. An outstanding achievement.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

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هكذا من الأصل

Those naughty Young Turks

Lawrence James recalls the forgotten glory of a lost empire



MARY EVANS

An energetic and capable Ottoman Sultan: Suleiman the Magnificent (1496-1566)

LORDS OF THE HORIZONS
A History of the Ottoman Empire
By Jason Goodwin
Chatto & Windus, £18
ISBN 0 7011 36693

One of the secret pleasures of Istanbul is the Turkish Army Museum. It was, and I hope still is, an untidy treasure house, free of the chic graphics and order so dear to the heart of the heritage industry. Outside is a Steptoe's yard of an Artillery Park where antique cannon rub muzzles with 19th-century machineguns. There is more of the same splendid jumble inside. Enver Pasha's automatic lies near a medieval helmet and a few yards away stands a bullet-riddled motor car that once carried a luckless Ottoman war minister on his last journey.

And then there are the vast tents in which conquering Sultans and their generals relaxed, ate and slept on campaigns. The sounds they heard are reproduced by an authentic Janissary band which performs *fortissimo* the marching and battle songs that unnerved the armies of Renaissance Christendom. As the drums beat to a thunderous crescendo and the voices roar "Muhammad" one can still feel something of the terror the Turks inspired.

A pattern can be discerned as one passes through this collection. An aggressive and rapacious nomadic people rode out of Central Asia and overcame the decrepit states which lay in their way. Success was swift and spectacular; by the mid-16th century the Ottoman Turks were masters of an Empire which encompassed the Middle East, Turkey, much of the North African coastline and a large chunk of the Balkans. For a time it seemed that the Mediterranean might become an Ottoman lake and twice, in 1526 and 1685, the Sultan's armies came within an ace of taking Vienna. Thereafter, the Ottoman saga is one of slow, piecemeal decline until the once virile empire became the "sick man" of the 19th century. Much to the irritation of those who hoped to be his heirs, the patient refused to die. He finally succumbed in 1918, one of the last casualties of the First World War, having just outlived his gravediggers, the Russian and Austrian Empires.

This is the essence of Jason Goodwin's story. It makes a fascinating read, for he writes with an appropriate *élan* and balances the sweep of great events with a host of revealing and sometimes pungent details. He has a knack of catching the prevailing mood of the Empire during all its phases, which makes the book a perfect companion for anyone who visits Turkey and wants to make sense of it and those countries it once ruled.

In those states it would be hard to find anyone with a good word to say about their former masters. Modern Balkan and Arab nationalism has made sure of that and, like other imperial powers, Ottoman Turkey has seen its virtues forgotten and its vices trumpeted. Goodwin tries to restore some balance, characterising the Ottomans as a "martial, civilised and tolerant" people. There was no racial hierarchy within the Empire, although there was plenty of racial tension towards its end. Syrian Christians and Muslims were happy to share the same buildings for worship.

The trouble was that when faced with serious internal problems, the Ottomans invariably reached for a sword or the strangler's bow cord. Assassination and massacre were an integral part of their political culture and, as recent events in Bosnia and Kosovo have shown, their former subjects, the Serbs, have revived the methods of the pashas. These officials, like every servant of the State from the Grand Vizier to the Janissary conscript, were the Sultan's creatures. The Empire was spared an hereditary aristocracy always jockeying for favours, but it was always a hostage to genetic caprice. There were Sultans, such as Suleiman the Magnificent, who made the administration work, but there were also the slothful, sybaritic and plain crazy who did not.

Further harm was done by an inbuilt hostility to progress. Islamic scripture insisted that: "Every novelty is an innovation, every innovation is an error, every error leads to Hellfire." What might be termed the Empire's brain was, therefore, afflicted with a sclerosis whose symptoms were a profound conservatism and a reluctance to face up to, let alone adopt, change. Rigid minds absorbed little. When, at the close of the 18th century, a Russian fleet appeared in the Mediterranean, officials were genuinely puzzled as to how it had got there and concluded that since it had not passed through the Bosphorus, it must have been carried overland.

Such a mindset made it hard for the Sultans to modernise the military machine. The up-to-date, imported European and American weapons in the Istanbul museum are evidence that reform did come, but old habits died hard. When the old backbone of the army, the Janissaries, objected to new ways, they were slaughtered.

And yet, the Ottoman Empire did possess an extraordinary resilience which was never understood by its enemies and those Victorian tourists who visited it in search of picturesque deliquescence and whose judgments Goodwin frequently quotes. In its final war, the Ottoman Army fought Russia to a standstill, severely mauled the British in Iraq and launched a campaign to regain the old Central Asian homelands. It also threw the Allies off the Gallipoli peninsula, the last and arguably the greatest Ottoman victory. Its hero was Mustafa Kamal Pasha, who, as Kamal Atatürk, later evicted French, Greek and Italian invaders and set about national regeneration with a will and spirit equal to those of the old warrior Sultans.

Michael Hofmann sees a glimmer of promise in a poet's pensées

No rhythm but plenty of blues

DIARIES OF A YOUNG POET
By Rainer Maria Rilke
Translated by Edward Snow and Michael Winkler
Norton, £19.95
ISBN 0 39 3045 536

Auden put it pretty conclusively, though he named no names, when he said: "I have known three great poets, each one a prize son of a bitch." And yet one clings to a stubborn hope — more a superstition, really — that because someone has written great poetry, they will tend to be worth something in human terms as well.

The German poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) is at least as unedifying as the trio — whoever they were — that Auden had in mind. The word "bounder" might have been coined for him. (John Berryman called him a jerk.) He was a snob, a wastrel and a parasite, who led the most skimmingly uncommitted life. And yet he wrote lines, poems and passages of prose that are unassailably great, deep and hard.

So what to do? The only way to deal with him is to read his greatest work and nothing else. To read his life — still more, I imagine, to write it, as Ralph Freedman most recently did, last year — is to have one's admiration clouded by an intimate contempt.

To make matters worse, Rilke was a prodigy, but more particularly he was a late developer, which is perhaps the secret truth of all prodigies. He published and self-published books in his teens. Thousands of pages flowed from his pen, in his unformed hand: novels, novellas, books of poems, art criticism, short stories. He had the 19th-century *faible* for theatre — like Balzac and Henry James — and wrote weedy plays. But the only thing going for him is industry and indomitableness. All his life, he had a phenomenal ease as a writer — and as a writer of verse. And once his ease found itself something to say, the combination made him great.

What made Rilke were the years in the 1900s when he lived in Paris, first as the secretary of the sculptor Auguste Rodin, and then on his own. He had a stark and solitary life with humiliations that he couldn't, for once, duck out of. In his thirties in Paris, he wrote and published the two volumes of *New Poems* (of 1907 and 1908) and his novel *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* (1910), one of the great books of the century and still far too little read. Then his long poem, the *Duino Elegies*, was begun in 1912, hung in abeyance a long time, and was dramatically completed ten years later, along with its aftershocks, the *Sonnets to Orpheus*.

But scholarship, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Things have to come from somewhere. The *New Poems* have to come from somewhere. (They can't just be new — though obviously Rilke, calling them that, thought they were.) *The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge* wants antecedents as well as ancestors.

And so Edward Snow and Michael Winkler, an art historian and a Germanist — it's a useful combination for this book, and for all of Rilke's work have brought out this rather splendid looking, fully annotated and painstakingly translated volume.

The *Diaries of a Young Poet* — a title given them by the editors to chime with Rilke's seemingly ever-popular *Letters to a Young Poet* — date from 1898 to 1900.

They are generally addressed to, and were more or less written at the behest of, Lou Andreas-Salome, an intellectual and (sometimes) erotic free spirit and, to borrow Musil's title, "the girl friend of famous men". She and Rilke started off as lovers, before she transformed herself into a sort of mentor and mother-figure to him instead; had she not done so, he might not have evolved his philosophy of unconsummated love and his general negative metaphysics. *Mutatis mutandis*, they might have been like Lawrence and Frieda.

The *Diaries*, then, are part punishment, part courtship, part escape. By the end of them, Rilke has broken with Lou, and moved into a rather intense artists' colony — its narcissistic, submarine and underachieving atmosphere is well-captured — and is about to marry a large sculptress. ("Clara arrived with her little Rilke under her arm," it was once unkindly noted.)

Rilke didn't have the qualities of the good diarist: curiosity, informal recollection, human accuracy. Intimacy, with him, is always oddly anonymous, just as his poems are like addresses to an Other — an Angel — across infinite space.

Things that would be gifts to the diarist — a chance, slighting encounter with the poet Stefan George in Florence; the ins and outs of his relationships — don't even appear. Whatever interest this book may promise, it is not as a diary but as Rilke.

And Rilke, at this stage, was only on his way. There are some magnificent aphoristic passages — about God, for example, or about art, "a reconciled St Sebastian, who allows the arrows to rest in his wounds" — foreshadowings of future sayings and poems, but probably no more than ten or 20 pages' worth. The translators have done him no favours either in using an English that is actually even stiffer than the German original: "how requisite I was to them", "fun, fun, fun . . . sickening climax of German sociality".

That android quality of diction is a misrepresentation of Rilke's language — though possibly not of his thought.



Not in his fellow-poets' good books: Rilke in 1897, aged 22

He achieved a rare perfection

LORD BERNERS
The Last Eccentric
By Mark Amory
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 1 85619 234 2

"Envious dry blankets who did not know him, and those who read of his luxury and the world of beauty with which he could afford to protect himself . . . can think what they like, the dreary form-fillers . . . they cannot be expected to understand the pleasure and thankfulness those people feel who had the privilege of his friendship," wrote John Betjeman in *The Listener* when Gerald Berners died in 1950. He was the funniest, cleverest friend anyone could wish for, and the most loyal and sensitive. David Cecil said he was the best-read man he ever knew.

As Mark Amory makes clear, he was never an intimate friend: reserved, shy, buttoned up. The only child of a dull, foxhunting mother and a clever, sarcastic father who was seldom at home, he was born in 1883 with a gift for music. Nobody sympathised; occasionally a guest played the piano and his first passion was for Chopin. His mother and his schoolmaster actively discouraged his music, hoping he might take to sport and games. At Eton he became ill, and these hated activities were forbidden by the doctor.

His Dame allowed him to play the piano, and go out sketching. He loved the beauty of Eton, and after he read a synopsis of *The Ring* and acquired the score, he lived in a fantastic world of gods, dwarfs and heroes.



Never a dull life: Berners with the Hon. Mrs Betjeman and her pony, Moti

A profession loomed. Diplomacy was chosen and Gerald was delighted to go abroad. He loved France, and in Dresden was taught how to write down his music. In his memoirs he describes a wonderful Christmas at Weimar, with *glühwein*, paper caps and the singing of *Stille Nacht*. Mark Amory has discovered he never spent Christmas in Germany; therefore much of what we think we know about his youth is fantasy, written when he was old. Perhaps his mother was not as dim as he pretends — it was she who bought Faringdon, the perfect small 18th-century house with a view of half England from its five drawing room windows.

Gerald failed the Foreign Office exam, a blessing. Instead of being sent to some outlandish place he spent happy years in Rome as honorary attaché at our Embassy. He adored Italy and made friends with avant-garde artists in Rome and Paris. In the Twenties he inherited Faringdon, but he kept a house in Rome.

In about 1933 he met the Mad Boy, Robert Heber-Percy. Some said he first saw him swinging on a chandelier in a Munich hotel. Gerald was now 50, a well-known composer from whom Diaghilev had commissioned ballets; his music was admired by Stravinsky. He invited Robert to bring his horses to Faringdon; Robert hunted, and efficiently ran Gerald's farms. He was no longer lonely in the country; the Mad Boy was sometimes outrageous, but never dull.

One year in Rome Gerald wrote a story about a girls' school, *The Girls of Radcliffe Hall*. He was headmaster, the "girls" were Cecil Beaton, Oliver Messel, Peter Watson, and Robert, the heroine. The book has not worn well. It depended on the "girls'" crushes and jealousies, comic at the time.

At Faringdon he painted, wrote memoirs and composed *The Wedding Bouquet*, with words by Gertrude Stein and choreography by Frederick Ashton. It was produced at Covent Garden, with Constant Lambert conducting. The war came, and made him sad. Europe, his paradise, tore itself to pieces. Music cannot be bombed, but everything else was at risk. He shut Faringdon and went to live in Oxford. His depression deepened, he had some sort of breakdown. He wrote *Far From the Madding War*, very funny but a biting satire.

Back at Faringdon once more he almost recovered, and lived for several years sharing delicious food and the beauty of his surroundings with many friends. In those days of rationing people such as Cyril Connolly, who lived in London, thought of nothing but food. Gerald and Faringdon achieved a rare perfection.

Mark Amory has cleverly captured the essence of Gerald Berners: his professionalism in music, his generosity and genius for friendship, his teases and jokes and sure sense of values. He was broadminded about everything except pomposity.

Diana Mosley

Urban hymn gone out of tune

Joanna Pitman

THE WIND-UP BIRD CHRONICLE
By Haruki Murakami
Harvill, £12
ISBN 1 86046 40 X

IT MAY be the way Haruki Murakami tells it. It may be because Japan has been mired in depression and recession for almost ten years now. But having put the protagonist of his new novel — *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, translated by Jay Rubin — into a sad and lonely existence of jobless inactivity, you'd be hard put not to imagine that Japanese mankind is on the verge of breakdown.

Toru Okada drifts through life listlessly, his days shaped by a circuit between sandwich-making in the kitchen, beer drinking on the verandah, trips to the dry-cleaners and mindless lolling on the sofa. His careerist wife is cold and distant. His brother-in-law is grotesque and sinister. His teenage neighbour is amusing but batty. His only companion is a cat that disappears periodically. This man's life is so maddeningly slow and hopeless that the words seem to drip slowly off the page and seep like chloroform into the nostrils.

Then his wife leaves him. Bang. No explanation. And Okada's life begins to turn *seriously* weird. Murakami leads the reader into a mystifying world of mirrors and cul de sacs as Okada tries aimlessly to find his wife, stumbling through an outdated sort of magical realism that fugs up his brain. Along the way he encounters mystics, psychics, telephone sex callers and army veterans. The sight lines of the story are so bizarrely tangled that the temptation is to drop the book and take up Okada's favourite brain-dead position on the sofa.

But Murakami has done his research. Jackdaws will enjoy picking over the trinkets on display. We are offered detailed how-to instructions on commercial wig-making, fleshpot decadence in big business, venality in Japanese politics, how to kill yourself by starvation, the best method of skinning a person alive, options for killing a zoo-resident tiger with a bayonet and, in wartime, a Chinese man with a baseball bat.

Between outbursts of didacticism, the tidy suburban realities of Japan make tentative appearances, only to be shoved out of sight again under more waves of obscure metaphysical searchings. So what are we to make of all this? Murakami has made a name for himself writing works of magical spiritual obscurity for postwar generations — *The Wild Sheep Chase* and *Hard-Boiled Wonderland* being the two best known outside Japan. And he has developed a compelling way of portraying the confusion that lurks beneath urban society's orderly exterior. He is a serial mysticist, which can be trying; but he usually leavens his work with a sufficiently batty humour to maintain this reader's sympathies. Did this one have to be so damned depressing?

Greece (or Rome) is the word

THE HISTORY of the Roman Republic up until the 1st century BC has held little interest for novelists. The worthies who built the Republic were on the whole decent yet dull men, who ploughed when they were not fighting and wrote interminable, annalistic histories when they were not ploughing.

Ross Leckie's *Scipio* (Canongate, £15.99; ISBN 0 86241 725 2) does little to dispel this impression. Not even conquering Hannibal and large parts of Africa seems to have made Scipio Africanus anything more than a Montgomery without the sense of humour. Leckie's book interweaves an imagined memoir, dictated by Scipio to his amanuensis, Bostar, a freed slave, with Bostar's reflections on his own life.

Scipio's youth, growing up in one of Rome's five noble families, was uneventful. But when Scipio is thrust into manhood as Rome is threatened by Hannibal the book comes to life. In come the battles and passions of Rome's war with Carthage.

Leckie writes with a highbrow relish about the Romans' crucifixion of captured Gaulish troops, the wagons full of hands cut from dead Roman legionaries Hannibal sent to Rome after crushing their army at Cannae.

The book ends abruptly, with many of Scipio's achievements still to come. "His true life has been a casualty of war," Bostar says. Bostar's admission seems also to be Leckie's too, that perhaps Scipio was not the subject the author might have hoped.

Mark Merlis has used the ancient world in a far more interesting way in his second novel, *Pyrrhus* (Fourth Estate, £15.99; ISBN 1 85702 679 9). A funky, free-wheeling book, it tells of Pyrrhus, a popular bartop stripper on a Greek island who also happens to be the son of Achilles and the only hope for victory for the Greeks against the Trojans. From a life of turning tricks for money and promiscuity with his friends, Pyrrhus is sought out by Phoenix, the Greeks' envoy from Troy, to come and lead the Myrmidons following the death of Achilles. His part in the war has been foretold in prophecies.

This is more than just a fantasy vision of the ancient world as a gay paradise. With all the liberties it takes, it offers a very believable depiction of the relations between the young men whose lives were dominated by war.

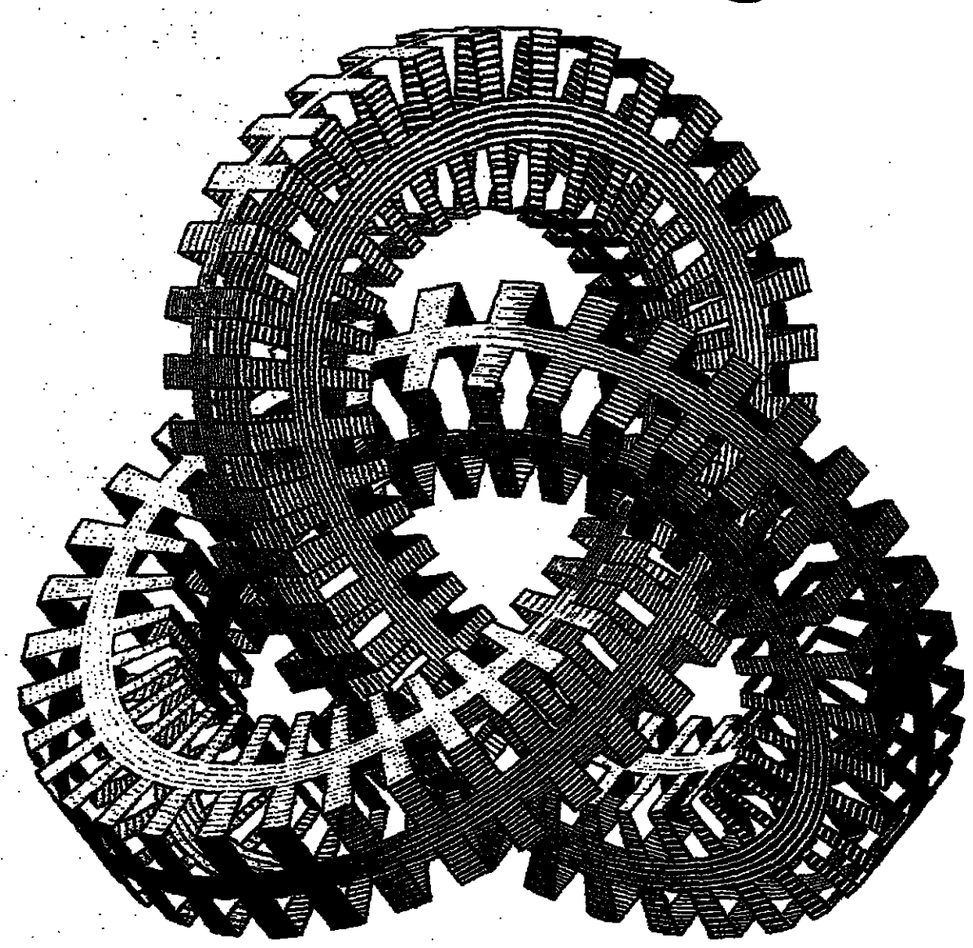
The best joke comes when Odysseus sees his plans to lure Pyrrhus back to Troy and end the war taking shape. He thinks to himself: "they were going to finish any day now. In a few weeks he would be home."

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Alive and ticking

Brain or mind? **Susan Greenfield** seeks the ghost in the machine



Cog in the works: *Dennett considers the possibilities for a thinking machine (illustration by M. C. Escher)*



Daniel Dennett, a layman-friendly philosopher who might have been an engineer, sees much mileage in the fostering of non-biological intelligence, the design of "artificial life", while at the same time indulging a fascination with the biological "designing" mind. Hence the two major themes of this collection of writings are summarised in the ambiguous subtitle, "Essays on Designing Minds".

If nothing else, these highly articulate and ruthlessly argued pieces stand as witness to a 25-year-old love affair with a "cognitive" approach to the mind and brain that is grounded in scientific empiricism but which, at the same time, thinks systems more than cells. By eschewing the fussy neuronal minutiae of the brain, the cognitive scientist-philosopher can concentrate on the truly big issues: an exploration of animal thought, be it human or non-human, as well as excursions into robotics and beyond into the misty, uncertain future of conscious artifacts. Dennett is a vigorous apologist for the value of artificial brains, and the issue runs through at least half of the essays.

But the going gets slippery. On the one hand, the purely cognitive approach is one that focuses on the processes being modelled, the final functions that machines such as an aptly named robot, "Cog" can perform. Dennett says he is not claiming that the point of Cog is to be conscious. But then what is the point? Simply to enable conscious humanity to avoid dangerous or unpleasant work environments? Not really. Instead the emphasis remains on the plausibility of machine consciousness. Dennett eloquently dares the reader with the stark "null hypothesis" that machine consciousness is impossible, and then breezily knocks down a series of arguments in support of the proposition. Ergo, there is no good reason why a computer should not be conscious.

But his list is not exhaustive. Dennett touches on the need to install "motivational systems" without saying how they might differ from the ordinary learning processes of which Cog — and to a some extent less agile machines — is already capable. The thorny problem of causing pain and pleasure, similarly, is dismissed too hastily as potentially of the presumably modest calibre experienced by a "housefly". But what if that minimalist pain or pleasure was, after all, the special factor, the difference between experience-induced circuit modification such as Cog already exhibits and that Holy Grail itself, first hand feelings — consciousness, no less? It would be a tautology, then, to say that if Cog had feelings, however paltry, it would be conscious. The critical issue, especially for someone professing a realistic hard headed approach, is that we would have to have a glimmer of how those feelings might be engendered, rather than accept an article of faith.

One avenue could be that opened by the very constituency that Dennett passes by, the neuroscientists. After all, the traffic between neurons depends on a chain reaction of alternating electrical blips, with release of chemicals as well. And it is chemical signalling that is modified by agents such as Prozac, morphine and LSD. If feelings are the basis of consciousness and chemicals at the basis of feelings, then are merely electrical systems such as Cog doomed to oblivion or open to a completely new dimension of enrichment?

Then the only guarantee that Cog would have the full complement of necessary chemical systems — squirting, drizzling and marinating in just the right places at the right times — would be to construct a simulacrum of the entire brain. Alternatively, if its critical features were already known, then there would be no point to the exercise in the first place.

So what of the designing biological minds themselves? The final section of the book is filled with cogent arguments that brains, and hence minds, are species-specific and that consciousness — not fancy self-consciousness, but mere sentience — will vary between species. But what of individuality, the differences in "mind" between conspecifics who possess seemingly similar brains? Here Dennett is less eloquent, and in another essay he touches on the problem of how biological systems can "have and use a lot of information about the world" — but does not explore how the physical brain becomes personalised, prompting the use of an additional term, mind.

But such questions are only possible because the problems have been so clearly laid out. For example, single word concepts such as "beliefs" or "qualia" (first hand experiences) run the risk of being erroneously considered as tangible properties of the physical brain: how much more appealing is Dennett's predilection for processes, events rather than objects. Unlike the unruptured narrative of the books on the mind and consciousness that are swamping the bookstores and which usually work up to a triumphant, take-home, catch-all message, the reiterating, rehashing and discontinuity that is the inevitable consequence of 26 essays spanning two decades offers something else: not so much answers as a way of life.

BRAINCHILDREN
By Daniel Dennett
Penguin, £12.50
ISBN 0 14 026563 5

Antonia Fraser on two passionate Tudor women

Royal sister act

Maria Perry, author of a respectable study of Elizabeth I portrayed through her own words, has had the bright idea of studying a pair of Tudor women to whom much less attention has been given. These royals, respectively Queens of Scotland and France, were in fact the aunts of Queen Elizabeth, but they owe their prominence in the Tudor family tree to the fact that they were the sisters of Henry VIII. In short, here is a book about the Henry VIII Two, rather than the more celebrated Henry VIII Six.

Margaret Tudor was born in 1489, four years after her father Henry VII won the crown at Bosworth Field; her sister Mary was six years her junior. There were also two surviving sons of Henry VII's marriage to Elizabeth of York, that union which united the Red Rose with the White: not only Henry VIII himself, who succeeded his father in 1509, but also his elder brother Prince Arthur, who died young after a brief marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

However, from the start, the fate of the princesses was to be very different from that of their brothers. Maria Perry's *Sisters to the King* is sub-titled *The Tumultuous Lives of Henry VIII's Sisters — Margaret of Scotland and Mary of France*. While as a sub-title it is unnecessarily cumbersome, one cannot quarrel with the phrase "tumultuous lives".

Between them the sisters would clock up five husbands, but that is obviously not the significant difference. (Although the matrimonial history of Henry's sisters is too often neglected as a factor in his own expectations of divorce or, as we should now call it, annulment.) No, the real difference exists in the geographical destinies of the women, compared to those of the men.

When Henry VIII went abroad, he went to make war. Margaret and Mary Tudor were on the other hand prepared from very early youth to go abroad to make love. If a diplomat, as the aphorism has it, is a man sent abroad to lie for his country, a Princess was a woman sent abroad to lie down for it. Margaret was dispatched to Scotland at the age of 13 — the age of puberty. Here a bridegroom, James IV, 16 years older, with a pack of mistresses and illegitimate children, awaited her. Romance, if any, took the form of an informal meeting three days before the actual wedding, in which King James did a good deal of vaulting on and off his horse in front of his bride's eyes. For all this — or maybe because of it — poor Margaret's still-childish voice emerges in a letter home: "I would I were with your grace now and many times more ..."This is the girl beneath the panoply of state, and the reasons of state which dictated the match in order to bind Scotland and England together. Ironically enough, so unsuccessful was this binding that Margaret's husband would die at the hands of her brother's army at Flodden Field only ten years later.

Queen Margaret, however, had produced a son, James V, who succeeded to the throne at the age of 16 months. Motherhood of an infant sovereign traditionally gave a woman strong claims to power. Mary Tudor, on the other hand, having been betrothed at an equally early age to Catherine of Aragon's Spanish Habsburg nephew Charles, the future Emperor Charles V, found herself finally sent abroad to France. Here her bridegroom, King Louis XII, was nearly 35 years her senior. Mary may have dutifully lain down for her country, but there was much doubt whether the aged King Louis ever took advantage of the offer. Even so, the incoming King of France, François I, had to wait impatiently until it was clear that the young widow was not pregnant.

Both Queen Margaret and Queen Mary now proceeded to make love matches, although one was known as the Queen Dowager of Scotland and the other as the French Queen for the rest of their lives. In Maria Perry's deft and enjoyable narrative, switching from sister to sister, one admires the resilience and also the evident sensuality of these women, who were determined to make up with their second marriages (Mary) and second and third (Margaret) what had earlier been lacking. Certainly the story of the *Henry VIII Two* shows us that physical passion figures strongly in the make-up of Tudor women as well as men. This is evidence which, while it cannot be held to be conclusive, does at least contribute to the current debate about the sexuality of their famous niece Elizabeth.

SISTERS TO THE KING
The Tumultuous Lives of Henry VIII's Sisters, Margaret of Scotland and Mary of France
By Maria Perry
Andre Deutsch, £15.99
ISBN 0 233 99004 6



Margaret and Mary: late love matches

Up at the old hotel

Claire Messud

STEVEN MILLHAUSER'S Pulitzer prizewinning novel brings to its author widespread recognition that he has long laboured without. Millhauser's own trajectory is, in this sense, a version of the American dream — ironic because, in *Martin Dressler*, he meticulously probes that profoundly American myth.

Martin Dressler, the son of a humble cigar-shop owner in turn-of-the-century New York, rises through initiative and force of imagination to wild prosperity. The novel follows his fantasies of grandeur from their inception through their aggrandisement, from a cigar stall in the Vanderlyn Hotel and a chain of luncheonettes, to a vast monstrosity called The Grand Cosmo, a hotel in the upper reaches of Manhattan, which strives to encompass entire worlds — shops and theatres, grottoes and lakes and fantastic visions — within its walls.

Martin moves through his life, as we are repeatedly reminded, as through a dream; and so does the city. Architecture, design, advertising — all are implicated in the fantasy.

Not only Martin's public life but his supposedly most intimate encounters take on the quality of the imaginary. In thrall to a Mrs Vernon and her two daughters, Caroline and Emmeline, he marries the elder, a pale, languid depressive whose presence is more like an absence, while relying on her dark, plain younger sibling for professional companionship. The women's hold on him is collective: in some initially thrilling but finally unsatisfying way, he has married all three of them; while for sexual pleasure he resorts to encounters with a foreign chambermaid. Even as Martin attempts to unite all aspects of modernity in his ever grander hotel schemes, his personal needs are compartmentalised into isolated exchanges. Their dissolution coincides, ultimately, with his greater, public failure: for it is all a dream from which he must awaken.

The resonance of this narrative far outstrips the simple historical tale: *Martin Dressler* is, in fact, a Post-Modern reflection upon the power, but also the limitations, of the imagination — and hence an exploration of the contradictions of fiction itself. Millhauser's historical New York, overflowing with vivid period detail, is itself a self-consciously artificial construction, as fantastic as Martin's hotels, with their labyrinths, "Culture Rooms" and panoramas.

The grotesquery of The Grand Cosmo is in the end a soulless parody of life that cannot be life. And if *Martin Dressler* has a failing, it is also that: both The Grand Cosmo and the novel lack real people, the authentic tensions of lived life. Millhauser's literary experiment is a marvellous, highly intelligent and provoking artefact; but it fails, profoundly, to engage on any but an intellectual level. This shortcoming, Millhauser's novel seems to suggest, is inevitable: the imaginary cannot be real. Such a vision has integrity, and a certain force; but the work of other novels, and other novelists, would indicate that it is only a partial vision.

MARTIN DRESSLER: THE TALE OF AN AMERICAN DREAMER
By Steven Millhauser
Phoenix House, £12.99
ISBN 1 861 59089 X

Spirits of the past

Ruth Scurr

RECLINING in her Rex Whistler-designed grave, Lady Pamela Glenconner (née Wyndham) still manages to enchant her descendants. In *Strangers*, Emma Tennant has captured her grandmother's flimsy but enduring magic with love and irony. The artful arranging of pearls, money, flappers and seances to cover and cope with the tragedy of the First World War; the J. M. Barrie atmosphere of whimsy and loss; the inter-war period during which Virginia Woolf might ring on a white telephone cradled in gold; all of these are vividly recalled and then dismissed by the author.

For all its allure, the past, Emma Tennant assures us, "is none of I". She writes with the wide-eyed freshness of a small girl foraging in dusty old letters for the secrets of human intimacy. And she writes with the compassionate grace of a mature woman who understands simple, daily, sexual unhappiness. In this kindly but honest tribute to her family, Emma Tennant finds "the words for what had taken so long to forget and now takes an age to remember". Polite when disparaging and reserved when loving, it is impossible not to be charmed by the author. She is both chronicler and practitioner of the hereditary powers that once entranced prime ministers and royalty. *Strangers* is her funny, elegant commentary on the combined power and irrelevance of our ancestors and the spells they cast.

In *The Telling*, Miranda Seymour examines the machinations of more sinister magic. Based on the visit Robert Graves and Laura Riding paid to an unknown American couple in 1939, this novel traces the destruction of a vulnerable woman's life and personality. Escaping her difficult, loveless childhood in Boston, Nancy Parker achieves a fragile happiness in marriage to a gifted but dissolute man.

She survives post-natal depression and declining finances only to encounter the shadowy evil she has always feared in the powerful mind of Isabel March (Laura Riding). To Nancy, Isabel seems insidiously threatening. After Nancy is admitted to a lunatic asylum, Isabel marries her husband and the now redundant character based on Robert Graves goes home to a nervous breakdown. Miranda Seymour provides a clever analysis of relationships between unequal adults. She avoids the temptation to portray Nancy as Isabel's passive victim, and indicates the ways in which a morbid sensibility or vulnerable mind might seek out the very torment it fears.

The account of Isabel's power over the talented and strong-minded men swept up in this debacle is less convincing. The author assures us that the White Goddess is as sexy as can be, but each time she appears in flowing brocade and velvet robes the urge to snigger becomes overwhelming.

STRANGERS
By Emma Tennant
Jonathan Cape, £12.99
ISBN 0 224 05087 7
THE TELLING
By Miranda Seymour
John Murray, £15.99
ISBN 0 7195 5710 0

DEREK HILL



Tennant as a child: her fictionalised memoir enchants

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Nearly full but hungry for more

Alex O'Connell

HUMANOID coathangers that make your average Giacometti look chubby may still be hip on the catwalks, but on the literary pavement podginess is really the *only* option this season. Especially if you're a bloke.

Julie Myerson's third novel, *Me and the Fat Man*, is a further addition to an index of weighty titles which includes the soon to be published *Donna and the Fatman* by Helen Zahavi, *Love of Fat Men* by Helen Dunmore, Peter Carey's *Fat Man in History* and *Fat Lad* by Glenn Patterson.

And who better to tackle the sizier questions than Myerson, already well-known for her exquisite descriptions of excessive physical love and mental torture?

Here we meet Amy, the narrator, a woman with a steamy present and a steamed up past. Married to a man with the sensitivity of a pork pie, she waits tables in Greenaway's restaurant and moonlights in the middle of the day, scooping up men in the Garden for the Blind — a litter-lined park with a reputation that exceeds its flower beds and Braille plant-tags. Compared with the other girls on the block she is the "youngest, the blondest, [has the] best figure and is the least used". But unlike them her need for money is secondary: she likes "the notes, the fatness of them, the warm heaviness of coin in your purse" before she deposits her cash in the Nationwide.

Such is her routine until she meets Harris, a self-appointed Svengali figure — old enough to be orphaned Amy's father, but someone to whom she becomes strangely drawn. A blast from her already windswept past, he sniffs her out at the restaurant, claims he knew her mother Jody and insists she meet Gary, his outsized lodger. At first Gary finds her as unappealing and insubstantial as a rice-cake, but before long she falls for his folds and he wraps her up.

The longer Amy perches on the rough edge of this triangle, the more likely it seems that the mens' attention involves her mother Jody — who had "not exactly kept her body to herself" — and the Greek island of Eknos where she spent her first six years. As friendships mutate, the scenery shifts to the island itself where there are burials and uncoverings.

This is more of a light snack than a banquet of big ideas but Myerson writes with sensitivity and skill. The bulk is well-structured and grips like an elasticated waistband, leaving the reader ready for a filling conclusion. Sadly, it never arrives and the end is sluggish and predictable — leaving this reader feeling painfully peckish.

ME AND THE FAT MAN
By Julie Myerson
Fourth Estate, £14.99
ISBN 1 85702 822 8

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

MEET NICK HORNBY



Nick Hornby, the best-selling author of *Fever Pitch* and *High Fidelity*, will be talking about his new novel, *About a Boy*, at a Times/Dillons Forum. Hornby will read extracts from the book and answer readers' questions about his work.

Chaired by Lynne Truss, *Times* columnist and comic novelist, the forum will take place at 7.30pm on April 7 at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed) includes £2 off copies of *About a Boy* (Gollancz, £15.99).

NICK HORNBY FORUM

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Whether complaint made within time limit

Cast v Croydon College

Before Lord Justice Otton, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 19]

For the purposes of determining whether a complaint had been made within the time limited by section 76(1) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, a decision by an employer might be an act of discrimination for the purposes of section 63(1) whether or not it was made on the same facts as a previous decision, provided that it amounted to a reconsideration of the previous decision and was not a mere reference back to it.

Additionally, the employer's repeated refusals to permit an employee to work part-time after maternity leave amounted, in the circumstances, to a policy and to an extended act within the meaning of section 76(6)(b) of the 1975 Act to be treated as done at the end of the employee's employment.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing Mrs Jackie Cast's appeal against the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Judge Hargrove, QC, Miss A. Mackie and Mr G. H. Wright) ([1998] ICR 77) of her interlocutory appeal from the decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at London (South) that it had no jurisdiction to hear her complaint of constructive dismissal and dismissal by sex discrimination against her employers, Croydon College, because it was presented out of time.

Section 63 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) A complaint by any person ("the complainant") that another person . . . (a) has committed an act of discrimination against the complainant which is unlawful . . . may be presented to an industrial tribunal."

Section 76 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) An industrial tribunal shall not consider a complaint under section 63 unless it is presented to the tribunal before the end of the period of three months beginning when the act complained of was done. . .

"(6) For the purposes of this section . . . (b) any act extending over a period shall be treated as done at the end of that period. . ."

Miss Heather Williams for the employee; Mr Bruce Carr for the college.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the employee worked full-time as the manager of the college's information centre. The college had a written policy of receptiveness to proposals for job sharing at all levels and no exception was made of the employee's post.

On March 26, 1992 Mr Holt, the employee's line manager, refused her request for permission to work part-time and to share her job with another after her return from maternity leave. The employee went on maternity leave in July and gave birth in August. On March 1, 1993 the employee returned to work, contractually complying with her full-time working commitments by using accrued leave to enable her to work between one and two days a week. On March 16 and May 10, she again asked Mr Holt whether she could share her job with someone else, but he refused.

On May 11 she wrote to the Director of Services and Administration asking for reasons for the decision and drawing his attention to the policy statement.

He wrote on May 13 saying that he had asked Mr Holt to write to her formally advising her of his decision. On May 14 Mr Holt wrote confirming his earlier refusals.

On June 7 the employee gave a month's notice of termination of her employment "albeit under duress" because of the refusal to allow her to work part-time and to share her job and she presented her application to the industrial tribunal on August 13.

The tribunal held that it had no jurisdiction to hear the claim because the act complained of was not an act extending over a period within section 76(6)(b) of the 1975 Act but the single act of refusal on March 26, 1992, that it was outside the three-month period and it was not just and equitable to extend the period under section 76(5).

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed her appeal. It held that the industrial tribunal had correctly found that the act of discrimination complained of was the decision of March 26, 1992 and that her complaint was therefore long out of time.

The authorities distinguished between a complaint of a "one-off" discriminatory decision whether or not it had a long term effect, which was governed by section 76(1), and one of the application of a discriminatory policy or regime pursuant to which decisions might be taken from time to time, "an act extending over a period" for which section 76(6)(b) provided.

A one-off discriminatory act might be an application of an established discriminatory policy or it might be inherently discriminatory regardless of any such policy. If the complaint was of a specific discriminatory act the fact that it might have been an application of an established policy added nothing for that purpose.

The starting point was, therefore, to determine what was the specific act of which complaint was made. The fact that a specific act out of time might have continuing consequences within time did not make it an act extending over a period.

As to an act extending over a period, the authorities made it clear, at least in the case of discrimination in the field of employment under section 6 of the 1975 Act and section 4 of the Race Relations Act 1976: see Rovenska v General Medical Council ([1998] ICR 85), that it was the existence of a policy or regime, not a specific act of an employer triggering its application to the complainant that mattered.

There might be a policy or regime for that purpose even though it was not of a formal nature or expressed in writing; and it might be confined to a particular post or role.

In the case of such a policy, the discriminatory act extended over the period of employment and was to be treated as having been done at the end of a complainant's employment: see Calder v James Finlay Corporation Ltd ([1989] ICR 157, 159).

It was no part of the ratio of the decision in Rovenska v General Medical Council ([1998] ICR 85) that a decision following consideration of a repetition of an earlier request could only amount to an act of discrimination in its own right if the further request contained fresh material.

Policy or no, a decision might be an act of discrimination whether or not it was made on the same facts as before, providing it resulted from a further consideration of the matter and was not merely a reference back to an earlier decision.

If the employee's case was considered as a complaint of a number of decisions by the college, each amounting to a fresh refusal of a fresh request by her to work part-time, then the most recent refusal was the relevant one for the purposes of the time bar.

That would be so whether or not the refusals were the application of a policy or regime. On the material before the industrial tribunal it was clear that the employee's most recent refusal was on May 10, 1993.

The industrial tribunal found that the college reconsidered and looked at the matter again in 1993 and they erred in law in failing to consider the implications of that finding for the purpose of the running of time.

While the final refusal on May 10 was still outside the three-month time limit, it was only by three days, a trivial over-run compared with the thirteen and a half months from March 26, 1992.

Moreover, the industrial tribunal erred in concluding that there was a single act of discrimination and no relevant policy, and the appeal tribunal erred in treating that conclusion as conclusive.

Even on the industrial tribunal's own findings of fact there were clearly several decisions of which the employee was complaining as indicating the existence of a discriminatory policy in relation to her post. Accordingly, on the primary facts, the employee had clearly complained of a policy constituting an extended act up to the time she left her employment within section 76(6)(b) of the 1975 Act and that, by virtue of that provision, it was to be treated as done to her up to that time.

On that ground alone, his Lordship would allow her appeal, set aside the decisions of both tribunals and remit the complaint to an industrial tribunal.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Miss Pauline A. Matthews, Manchester; Stonehams, Croydon.

Neighbouring council's resources relevant

B v Special Educational Needs Tribunal and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Otton and Sir Christopher Staughton

[Judgment March 20]

In determining whether the education of a child with special educational needs at a school in a neighbouring authority preferred by the parents was incompatible with the efficient use of resources within paragraph 3(3)(b) of Schedule 27 to the Education Act 1996, the local education authority responsible for assessing the child's needs was to take into account not merely its own resources but also those of the authority which maintained the preferred school.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by B against the dismissal by Mr Justice Moses on December 9, 1997, of her appeal against the dismissal by the Special Educational Needs Tribunal of her appeal against the decision of the London Borough of Harrow that it would not be compatible with the efficient use of their resources for her daughter F to attend a school maintained by a neighbouring borough.

The case was remitted to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal for reconsideration.

F was born in 1993 and had complex series of physical and learning difficulties. She was dependent on adults for all her needs.

She began attending Whittlesea, a special school catering for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties maintained by the London Borough of Harrow. Later that year Harrow began a statutory assessment of F's special educational needs, and in August 1996 issued a final statement naming Whittlesea as the appropriate school.

Having expressed a preference for Grangewood School in the neighbouring borough of Hillingdon the mother appealed to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal.

Finding that F's attendance at the Hillingdon school would cost Harrow £11,000 to £12,000 annually, the tribunal concluded that it would not be compatible with the efficient use of Harrow's resources within paragraph 3(3)(b) of Schedule 27 for F to attend the school of her mother's choice.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Nicholas Bowen for the mother; Mr J. R. McManus for Harrow.

SIR CHRISTOPHER STAUGHTON said that it was argued for the mother that the resources referred to in paragraph 3(3)(b) of Schedule 27 were the cost to public funds as a whole of providing education to F.

Harrow objected that the point had not been raised before the tribunal and ought not to be allowed to be advanced before the Court of Appeal: see Kuncliyk v Derby City Council ([1978] ICR 1116) and Hellyer Brothers Ltd v McLeod ([1986] ICR 122). Those were employment decisions, which were usually employers against employees supported by trades unions.

This was a case of a mother caring for her child, appearing before the Special Educational Needs Tribunal where representation was discouraged. It would be quite wrong to reproach the mother for not having raised that argument before the tribunal or to penalise her for not having done so.

It was a point of general principle. It was in the public interest that it should be decided.

For children with no special educational needs, parents had been able to express a preference for a school since 1980, a provision now in section 411 of the 1996 Act.

Section 411(5) imposed an obligation, not on the sending authority but on the receiving authority to treat a child from another area in the same way as a child from its own area.

It was argued for the mother that if only the resources of the child's own authority were taken into account it would never be possible for parents to choose a school outside their area because the cost would always exceed the cost of sending the child to a school maintained by that authority.

The judge had rejected the mother's argument since section 411(5) expressly provided in respect of children with no statement that the duty to comply with the parental preference applied even where the preferred school was not in the area of the child's local education authority, but there was no similar provision in paragraph 3 of Schedule 27 in relation to statemented children.

His Lordship did not regard the failure to repeat the obligation in section 411(5) in relation to statemented children as having that result.

The important point was that there was no express provision confining resources in Schedule 27 to those of the sending authority. There was no ground for making an implication to that effect. The provision was surely aimed at preventing the wasteful use of resources.

The question was whether it was an inefficient use of resources generally for the parental preference to be observed.

The payment from Harrow to Hillingdon was irrelevant. It was not a use of resources but merely a transfer of resources enacted by Parliament.

The tribunal was not entitled to take account only of the cost to Harrow. It should have considered the use of resources of both local education authorities in deciding whether the mother's preference was incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

Lord Justice Otton delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, agreeing, said that Parliament intended that the parents of all children should be allowed to express a preference for a school, whether in or out of borough.

It could not always be complied with, but there should be no discrimination between different categories of children.

Solicitors: Teacher Stern Selby; Mr A. Gerald J. Balabanoff, Harrow.

Establishing asylum claim

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Demiraj and Another

Before Mr Justice Collins

[Judgment January 29]

Under the Convention and Protocol relating the Status of Refugees (1951) (Cmd 9171) and (1967) (Cmnd 3906) the various signatory countries could properly differ in the way in which they required an asylum seeker to establish his claim to asylum.

In deciding whether the law of another jurisdiction as to the granting of asylum was applied in accordance with the Convention and Protocol the question to be addressed was only whether in the interpretation of its duties under the said Convention and Protocol as represented by the law of that other jurisdiction was within a range of tolerance which one signatory owed to another.

Mr Justice Collins so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing an application for judicial review by the applicants, Besnik Demiraj and Astrit Ethemi, of the decision of the Secretary of State for the Home Department dated December 28, 1996 to issue certificates under section 2 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.

Mr Manjit Gill and Miss Ursula Miszkiel for the applicants; Mr Nigel Pleming, QC and Miss Lisa Giovanetti for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE COLLINS said he followed the decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Kerrouche (July 31, 1997 unreported) and adopted the observations of Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls:

"The difference in approach to the interpretation of the Convention and Protocol has to be of such significance that it can be said that in making a decision affecting the position of a particular applicant for asylum the third country would not be applying the principles of the Convention.

"For this to be the position the third country's approach would have to be outside the range of tolerance which one signatory country as a matter of comity is expected to extend to another."

Solicitors: Sri Kanth & Co, Wembley; Treasury Solicitor.

Lawyers must know what they did wrong

S v M (Wasted costs order)

Before Mr Justice Pumfrey

[Judgment December 5]

If was wrong in principle to make an order that a party's legal representatives show cause why they should not be ordered, pursuant to section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, to pay costs wasted by reason of their allegedly improper, unreasonable or negligent conduct in the absence of a clear statement of what the legal representatives were said to have done wrong.

Mr Justice Pumfrey so held in the Chancery Division when:

(i) allowing counsel for the defendant leave to appeal out of time against the order of Master Moncaster for the solicitors and counsel for the defendant to show cause why a wasted costs order should not be made against them to meet the costs wasted by the plaintiff by reason of the allegations of forgery made by the defendant and now withdrawn in the course of a partnership dispute concerning a property purchased jointly by the plaintiffs and defendant; and

(ii) setting aside paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the order of Master Moncaster of February 21, 1997 in so far as they related to counsel for the defendant.

His Lordship heard the case and delivered judgment in chambers but gave leave to report it provided the parties were not identified.

Mr Colin Wright for the plaintiff; Mr Mark Simpson for counsel for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE PUMFREY referred to the detailed guidance given by the Court of Appeal in Ridehalgh v Horsefield ([1994] Ch 205) per Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, as to the exercise of the jurisdiction to make wasted costs orders pursuant to section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as substituted by section 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Pursuing hopeless cases

A legal representative was not to be held to have acted improperly, unreasonably or negligently simply because he acted for a party who pursued a claim or a defence which was plainly doomed to fail, although would have so acted if he connived in an abuse of process. If there was doubt on the issue of abuse of process, the legal representative was entitled to the benefit of it.

Privilege

Judges had to make full allowance for the inability of respondent legal representatives to tell the whole story in the event that their own client did not waive privilege. Only when, with all allowances made, a lawyer's conduct of proceedings was quite unjustifiable could it be appropriate to make a wasted costs order.

Timing

Generally applications for wasted costs orders should be made after trial, in order to prevent the party who employed the respondent legal representatives being deprived of the solicitors and/or counsel of their choice.

Procedure

Fairness required that any respondent lawyer had to be told very clearly what he or she had done, wrong and what was claimed. There should be no pleadings and discovery was not appropriate. The applicant should not be permitted to interrogate the respondent lawyer, or vice versa.

Showing cause

The court should not exercise its discretion to order a legal representative to show cause without careful appraisal of the relevant circumstances. Order 62, rule 11(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court clearly envisaged that a representative would not be called on to make a reply unless an apparently strong prima facie case had been made against him.

In the present case it appeared that at the hearing before the master, the plaintiff's application did not identify either the manner in which the barrister was alleged to have acted improperly, unreasonably or negligently in relation to the allegation of forgery, and it did not identify the costs alleged to have been wasted.

Had the grounds of claim been formulated before the application was made to the master, he could have decided whether and to what extent there was a prima facie case that the barrister had acted improperly, negligently or unreasonably.

Mr Wright based the plaintiffs' claim for a wasted costs order firmly upon counsel's failure to obtain an expert's report before pleading the allegation of forgery, conduct prohibited by paragraph 606(c) of the Code of Conduct of the Bar (Amendment No 4 of March 12, 1994).

His Lordship agreed that such conduct was capable of being improper, but considered that the evidence set out in the barrister's affidavit had been sufficient to enable an allegation of forgery to be pleaded.

The barrister could not reveal the advice she had given on obtaining the expert's report, and obtaining such reports was in any event not her responsibility.

There was, therefore, no prima facie case that she had acted negligently or improperly in respect either of the original pleading or in obtaining the expert's report.

Solicitors: Caplans; Reynolds Porter Chamberlain.

Managing director guilty of publication

Brown v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Astill

[Judgment March 12]

A managing director of a publishing company who was effectively the sole person in control, could be guilty as a publisher of an offence under section 4(5) of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an appeal by Gordon Brown, of North Yorkshire, by way of case stated against his conviction by Marylebone Justices of publishing the name of a complainant in a rape case, contrary to section 4(5) of the 1976 Act.

Section 4 of the 1976 Act, as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides: "(1) . . . (a) . . . after an allegation that a woman or man has been the victim of a rape offence has been made . . . neither the name nor the address of the woman or man . . . shall . . . (i) be published in England and Wales in a written publication available to the public . . .

"(5) If any matter is published . . . in contravention of subsection (1) of this section . . . (a) . . . any proprietor, any editor and any publisher of the newspaper or periodical . . . shall be guilty of an offence. . ."

Mr David Price, solicitor, for the appellant; Mr John McGuinness for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ASTILL said the appellant was the managing director and a shareholder of a company that owned a broadsheet newspaper The Sunday Business.

In October 1996, the newspaper published an article which, contrary to section 4 of the 1976 Act, identified the complainant in a rape case. The appellant was charged with being the publisher of the offending article under section 4(5).

His principal role was that of financial backer, he had no editorial input and had not read the article nor did he know or suspect that it was going to be published.

However, the justices found that as managing director, the appellant played a dominant role within the company and was effectively the person in control. In common sense terms, he was clearly the publisher. Accordingly, he was convicted under section 4(5).

Mr Price submitted that a director, managing or otherwise, of a publishing company who played no part in editorial matters, could not be considered a publisher for the purposes of section 4(5) merely by virtue of his office.

He cited R v Bolam, Ex parte Haigh ([1949] 93 Sol J 220) and In re Lonrho plc ([1990] 2 AC 154) to support the proposition that liability depended on knowledge.

His Lordship was not persuaded that either case was an authority for the proposition that a managing director who had no direct knowledge could not be liable under section 4(5). The section was deliberately widely drawn to prevent those bearing responsibility from sheltering behind lack of knowledge of the offending article.

The appellant was managing director and effectively the only person in control of the company. In those circumstances, there was an inference, that the appellant was responsible for the publications of the company he managed.

Mr Price further submitted that if an officer was liable to be convicted under section 4(5), section 5(4) [making those who contributed to the publication through consent, connivance or neglect also guilty] would be otiose.

His Lordship disagreed, section 4(5) caught publishers and proprietors, whereas a secretary, who was neither a publisher nor a proprietor, could be liable under section 5(4). It was clear, that an offence under section 4(5) could be committed under the provisions of that section or under section 5(4).

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas agreed.

Solicitors: David Price & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Pollution liability without fault

Environment Agency v Brock plc

A latent fault in a seal causing a leakage of pollution from a pipe was a rare but ordinary fact of life and the controllers of the pipe were held to be the cause of the leak without any need for knowledge or negligence on their part.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Roch and Mr Justice Potts) so held on February 16, allowing an appeal by way of case stated of the Environment Agency from the dismissal by Chester Justices on September 23, 1997 of a prosecution brought against Brock plc for polluting controlled water, contrary to section 85(1) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH stated that pumping tip leachate through pipes to a man-made ditch was a positive act by the company, as without that act no escape could have occurred.

The bursting of a seal manufactured by a third party, although unforeseeable, was not an extraordinary event but a normal fact of life. The company was therefore the cause of any escape of tip leachate: see Empress Car Co (Abertillery) Ltd v National Rivers Authority (The Times February 9, 1998).

The man-made ditch to which the tip leachate was pumped qualified as a watercourse by reason of section 104(3) of the Water Resources Act 1991. It was irrelevant that the ditch was virtually dry. As water could run from it to a nearby brook, it came within the definition of controlled waters in section 85(1) of the Act.

Fax notice tendered when office opened

Galaxy Energy International Ltd v Novorossiysk Shipping Co

The tender of a notice of readiness by Telex or fax message, stating a vessel had arrived and was ready to load/discharge, outside the hours specified for tender in the voyage charterparty but when in fact the vessel was ready to load and discharge, was not invalid and rendered a nullity, since the notice would be "tendered" when those hours began.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Christopher Slade) so held in a reserved judgment on March 10 dismissing the appeal of the plaintiff charterers from the dismissal by Mr Justice Longmore ([1997] 1 Lloyd's Rep 284) on November 8, 1996, of their appeal against the award of arbitrators of May 20, 1996, upholding the defendant shipowners' claim for demurrage. The issue concerned the commencement of laytime under a voyage charterparty.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the Telex message to the charterers' office was sent out of the hours specified (06.00 to 17.00) in the knowledge it would remain on the receiver's machine until the following day when it would be available for office staff to deal with when they began work at or after 06.00. That was a clear case of "tender" at that time.

Notices tendered outside the permitted hours could not be relied on as having contractual effect at the time of tender, but in the present case the tender was at 06.00 whether or not there was previously a tender at the time the Telex was sent.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

CIPHER RESOURCES LTD
CIPHER RESOURCES SECURITIES LTD
CREMEVIEW LTD
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: On 13 March 1998 the above companies were placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and R Bailey and M Fishman of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT, were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members.
The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to R Bailey of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 13 May 1998.
The Joint Liquidators also give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 13 June 1998, they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 13 May 1998 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claims of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The companies are able to pay all of their known creditors in full.
Date: 18 March 1998
R Bailey, Joint Liquidator

NO 0226 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION BRISTOL DISTRICT REGISTRY
HIS HONOUR JUDGE MOSELEY
Friday 20 March 1998
IN THE MATTER OF CASE TECHNOLOGY LIMITED AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 20 March 1998 confirming the reduction of capital of the said company from £20,150,100 to £4,797,100 and the minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 24 March 1998
DATED this 24th day of March 1998
Messrs Burges Salmon
Narrow Quay House
Narrow Quay
Bristol BS1 4AH
Tel: 0117 939 2000
Ref: CEB/RAB/192181.1

METEOR PAYPHONES LIMITED
THE PUBLIC TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED
PARAGON PAYPHONES LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that meetings of the creditors of the above companies will be be held at the offices of B N Jackson Norton, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5BZ, on Monday the 30th day of March 1998 at 11.00 am, 11.15am and 11.30am respectively, for the purposes provided for in Sections 98, 100 and 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
A list of the names and addresses of the companies creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, during business hours on the 26th and 27th days of March 1998 at the offices of B N Jackson Norton, 1 & 2 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BZ.
The meetings may be requested to consider a resolution agreeing the basis of the Liquidator's remuneration. To assist creditors in making an informed decision, a copy of the creditors' guide to Liquidators' fee as detailed in the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency, Statement of Insolvency Practice No 9 is available.
Dated this 3rd day of March 1998
By Order of the Board
D Westwick, Director

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
INSOCO 676 LIMITED
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 03442000
On 16th March 1998 the above company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Simon Allport and Roy Bailey of Arthur Andersen, Bank House, 9 Charlotte Street, Manchester were appointed Joint Liquidators by the Members.
The Joint Liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to Simon Allport at the above address by 24th April 1998.
The Joint Liquidators also give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(6) that on 1st May 1998 they intend to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 24th April 1998 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors. The final return to creditors will be made without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
The company is able to pay all of its known creditors in full.
S. Allport, Joint Liquidator.

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF CAPITAL
IMPACT (CRISTON) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:-
1. The above named Company (the "Company") has approved payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring 27197 of its own shares by purchase.
2. The amount in question of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £99,524.10
3. The date of passing of the Resolution for payment out of capital was 20th March 1998
4. A statutory Declaration and Auditor Report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's Registered Office at Tantex House, Halton Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire PE23 5JZ
5. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the 5 weeks immediately following the date of the Resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an Order prohibiting the payment or other relief.
David J Colman,
Company Secretary
Dated the 20th day of March 1998

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO ALL UKRAINIAN NATIONALS RESIDENT IN THE UK
All Ukrainian Nationals residing in UK and duly registered with the Embassy of Ukraine in London are invited to take part in the election of the VERCHOVNA RADA of Ukraine. Election will take place from 9.00 until 20.00 on the 29th of March 1998 at the Embassy of Ukraine, 78 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2PL (nearest tube station "Notting Hill Gate"). Tel: 0171 727 6312.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity Development Trust for the Deaf or Physically Disabled Elderly.
Scheme to alter or affect the trusts of the Charity.
Reference: PC292834/92964-CDC(dn)
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at 47 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX quoting the reference above.

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY UNDER SUBSECTION 8(5) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

1. She proposes to grant licences under the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to Singtel (Europe) Ltd, Startec Telecom Limited, GN Great Northern Gateway Ltd A/S, o.tel.o communications Limited, Tele Danmark A/S, Transline Communications Limited, UTG Communications (Europe) AG, PSINet Telecom UK Limited, DirectNet Telecommunications UK Limited and Stentor Communications Limited ("the Licensees") to run international telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom. The licences will be for a period of six months, thereafter being subject to revocation on one month's notice.
2. The principal effect of each licence will be to enable the Licensees to install and run telecommunication systems in the United Kingdom which may be connected to telecommunications systems outside the United Kingdom and to provide a wide range of international services but not any domestic services (i.e. services involving the conveyance of messages which originate and are subsequently to terminate in the United Kingdom) or mobile radio services. Each Licence authorises the connection to a wide range of other systems, including domestic systems and earth orbiting apparatus.
3. Each Licence will be subject to conditions such that section 8 of the Act will apply to it, thereby making each of the systems run under each licence eligible for designation as a public telecommunication system under section 9 of the Act. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to designate each of the Licensee's systems as a public telecommunication system.
4. The Secretary of State proposes to grant each licence in response to an application from each licensee for such a licence because she considers it will help to satisfy demands in the United Kingdom for the provision of services of the type authorised, will promote the interests of consumers in respect of the quality and variety of such services, and will maintain and promote effective competition between those engaged in the provision of telecommunication services.
5. Representations or objections may be made in respect of each of the proposed licences. They should be made in writing by 24 April 1998 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 2.57 Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licence can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Department (fax: 0171 215 1721) or by calling 0171 215 1756.

Alan Proud
Department of Trade and Industry
26 March 1998

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ghana Commercial Bank

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Transfer of Ghana Commercial Bank London business to Ghana International Bank plc

As part of the Government of Ghana's privatisation strategy, it is proposed that the business of Ghana Commercial Bank London Branch be transferred to a newly incorporated UK bank on or about 31 March 1998. The new bank will be called Ghana International Bank plc ("GIB").

This transfer will include all UK banking assets and liabilities, present UK based staff and the existing London Branch premises. It is intended that the transfer will be a "seamless" operation, with accounts of customers closing and simultaneously matching accounts being opened with GIB offering the same terms, services, and, where applicable, interest rates and maturities. Customers' Account numbers and the Bank Sort Code number (60-92-63) will remain unchanged.

In due course current account customers will be issued with a new cheque book and paying in slips but meanwhile GIB will treat all Ghana Commercial Bank items as though they were addressed to GIB. Similarly all other instructions, mandates, direct debits, credits etc issued and addressed to our London Branch including transactions in course, will be treated as though they had been addressed to GIB.

GIB will be authorised as a deposit taking institution by the Bank of England under the Banking Act 1987, prior to its commencement of banking business. Depositors will continue to be protected under the Banking Act deposit protection scheme.

GIB will be owned as to 31% by the Bank of Ghana, 20% by the Government of Ghana, 20% by Ghana Commercial Bank, 15% by SSNIT, 9% by Agricultural Development Bank, Accra and 5% by State Insurance Co. of Ghana.

All existing customers of GCB have already been notified of these arrangements by letter where current addresses are held. This notice is provided to advise customers whose addresses have been changed or where no current address is known.

CUSTOMERS WHO ARE HAPPY WITH THESE PROPOSALS NEED DO NOTHING and GCB will automatically transfer their balance(s) and all banking arrangements to GIB. However if any customer would prefer to close their account, written instructions containing full details of the Bank or Building Society, the Account Name and Number to which they wish to transfer their balance should be given to Ghana Commercial Bank.

Anyone having any questions about these arrangements should call Ghana Commercial Bank at 0171 248 2384 and ask for the GIB Helpdesk.

Ghana International Bank plc will be the only Ghanaian owned bank in the UK

Bargains of the week: camp on the French Riviera or join the beautiful people on Miami's South Beach

PACK YOUR BAGS

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices:

BRITAIN

A BOTTLE of champagne is on offer from Chelsea even before the team appear in Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup Final, provided you stay in the Chelsea Village Hotel, which opened this week, and dine in one of its four restaurants. Room rates start from £125 a night. Details: 0171-565 1400.

■ *WAGTAIL* Cottage and Dairy Cottage, both sleeping four, are among West Country properties available for Easter week from Farm and Cottage Holidays. *Prices start from* £214. Details: 01237 479698.

■ STIRLING and its castle, Loch Linnhe, the Isle of Skye and Edinburgh are included in a self-drive itinerary with Sunvil UK and available over Easter. The trip includes ten nights' accommodation, eight with dinner, at leading hotels and costs from £770. Details: 0181-232 9788.

■ ALL the fun of a modern holiday camp is on offer over Easter at Pontin's, with five-night breaks in self-catering apartments costing from £162, based on four sharing. Space is available at centres in Devon, Wales, Somerset and Sussex. Details: 0990 331199.

■ WILD Geese on Islay and mammals, including otters, on Jura should be spotted on a week's *Naturetrek tour* starting from Glasgow on April 8 and costing £795, including hotel accommodation, all meals and a guide. Details: 01962 733051.

■ ENGLAND'S oldest annual festival celebrating St George takes place in Salisbury on April 18 and 19, and the city's hotels are marking the event with special deals. The White Hart charges £45 a night for B&B with a special offer for men called George; the Rose and Crown charges £100 for two nights. Details: 01722 334956.

EUROPE

AIR and rail travel to Italy without accommodation is now available from Citalia with the launch of its *Italy for a Song* brochure. Prices start at £189. Cheapest deal for Florence is to fly from Gatwick to Pisa for £294 and take the 45-minute train journey to the Renaissance city for free. Details: 0181-686 5533.

■ COURCHEVEL, one of the most popular French ski resorts, is still available for the week before Easter. A week's half-board chalet accommodation close to the village centre and lifts costs £399 with Le Ski, including flights from Gatwick or Manchester on April 4. Details: 01484 548996.

■ FUENGIROLA for a fortnight's self-catering over Easter is on offer from Lunn Poly for £274, based on four sharing. The Airtours holiday starts with a flight from Glasgow on April 9. Details from Lunn Poly Holidays Shops.

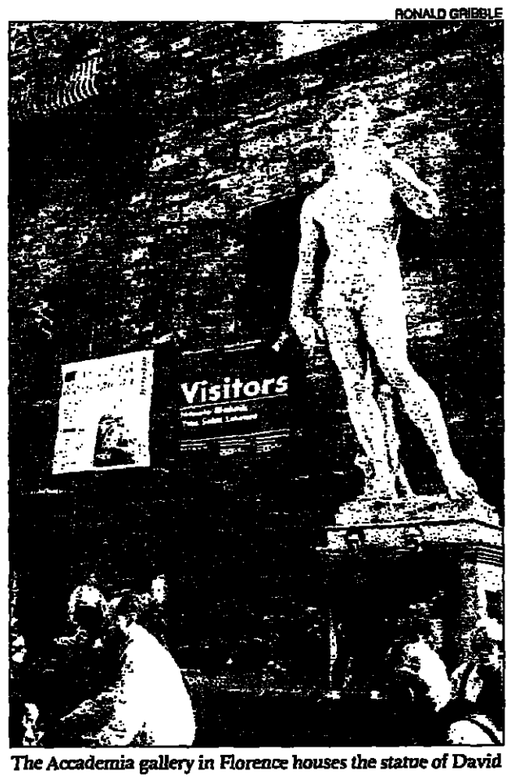
■ GOTHENBURG becomes cheaper and closer, at least to the centre of London, from Monday when Malmo Aviation introduces a £99 return fare on the route from London City Airport. The fare could interest families as well as business travellers as the Swedish city is home to the country's largest amusement park. Details: 01293 596668.

■ CAMPING on the French Riviera at Easter will be possible with Eurocamp which has mobile homes available at a St Aygulf site with all mod cons, including a vineyard opposite the entrance. A week for a family of two adults and up to four children costs £315 with Channel crossing included. Details: 01565 626262.

■ *RHODES* seldom comes cheaper than £169, the price for a week's self-catering in Faliraki with Odyssey Holidays available from April 15 *with a flight from Manchester*. For an extra £10 you can stay in one of the resort's hotels for the same week. Details: 0181-343 9090.

■ A WEEK split between Prague and Budapest with B&B for £154 sounds unbeatable but the deal with New Millennium Holidays & Travel is by coach. The ten-day trip leaves Britain on April 17. *Details: 0121-711 2232.*

RONALD GRIBBLE



The Accademia gallery in Florence houses the statue of David

LONG-HAUL

PERTH, Western Australia, for £492 return with the optional extra of a stopover in Singapore is the latest bargain Down Under. It comes from Austravel's Great Escape and will be available for Singapore Airlines flights from Heathrow from Sunday until June 30. Details: 0171-584 0202.

■ CAIRO for the weekend for £399 is on offer from Somak Holidays with three nights B&B at the Grand Pyramids Hotel and a flight from Heathrow on April 3. Details: 0181-423 3000.

■ EILAT for a week from April 5 in a resort hotel is available with Longwood Holidays for £385 with flights from Gatwick or Luton. Details: 0181-551 4494.

■ JOIN the beautiful people of Miami's South Beach as they pose on the "catwalk" of Ocean Drive, a favourite location for fashion shoots and movie-makers, on a long weekend with Funway Holidays. Three nights in an ocean-front hotel and return scheduled flights from London, Birmingham or Manchester cost £345 until the end of April, Easter excluded. Details: 0181-466 0222.

■ EASTER in Marrakesh is bound to be a bustling experience and is on offer from Advantage Travel Centres. Fly from Gatwick on April 9 and a week's B&B in a three-star hotel will cost from £475. Details: 0870 909 0070.

■ MALAYSIA is less murky now the Asian smog has thinned and the fares to Kuala Lumpur for students and under-26s are certainly bright enough with Campus Travel. Fly from Heathrow between April 10 and 30 and the return fare including tax is £295, valid for a year. Details: 0171-730 8111.

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From Dhaka, **Christopher Thomas** introduces a two-page special report on Bangladesh and the new mood of optimism sweeping the country

From 'basket case' to bankable asset

Bangladesh, for years dogged by Henry Kissinger's withering observation that it was a basket case, celebrates its National Day in the glow of unprecedented praise from international economic analysts. For almost the first time in its 26-year existence, this watery nation is able to contemplate the prospect of rapid economic improvement. There is at last a chance, given prolonged political and industrial stability, of tackling the poverty afflicting half the country's 121 million people.

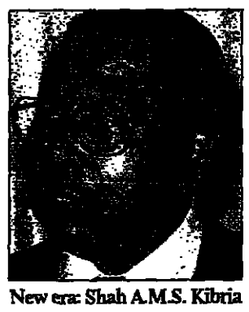
For the next decade Bangladesh will be at the heart of one of the fastest-growing world regions, with scope for fantastic investment returns and improvements in domestic living standards. It is not quite boom-time Bangladesh, but the future looks brighter than it ever did. Never has so much praise been expended on this overcrowded country, which has remained at the bottom of the poverty tables for decades, its population growth out of control, its politics a destructive battle for power and, at times, a contest between democracy and the generals.

The turnaround, while there is far to go, is impressive and sudden. Hope is in the air, but hardly anybody outside the country has noticed. Reinhold Heus, ANZ Investment Bank's managing director and global corporate finance head, is one who has. He says that ignorance about Bangladesh is the biggest impediment to foreign investment.

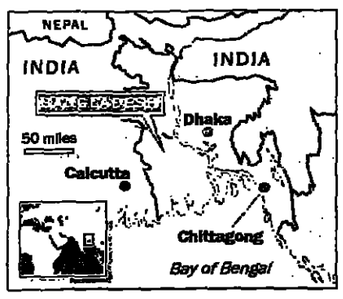
He notes that Bangladesh's corporate earnings have outperformed those of other Asian nations. So why does it attract so little foreign money? Because of "the persistence of wrong perceptions". He says that cynics might seek an explanation in the country's embryonic systems, its bloated bureaucracy and poor infrastructure, but adds that countries with which Bangladesh competes for international capital share similar barriers. He says: "For strategic and financial investors, now is the time to gain a foothold in the newly emerging economy."



Motivator: Sheikh Hasina



New era: Shah A.M.S. Kibria



Shah A.M.S. Kibria, the Finance Minister, naturally agrees. "Bangladesh has entered a new era of peace, progress and stability," he boasts, laying the cause squarely with the Awami League Government of Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, who took office in June 1996. He called the "basket case" theorists false prophets. Bangladesh, compared with its neighbours, looks like a calm haven.

So what changed to bring this about? Mr Kibria says: "We have become nearly self-sufficient in the production of food grains. We have also significantly reduced the population growth rate. We have become a major exporter of ready-made garments. Industrial production is growing at 12 per cent and the growth rate in other sectors is positive."

Most promising of all, natural gas in large quantities has been discovered onshore and offshore. Mr Kibria says: "Oil companies are convinced that the deposits are big and should be sufficient to provide ample resources for the rapid development of the economy. Oil companies have lined up for concessions to explore for oil and gas in many parts of the country. Some have already struck large deposits. Power stations, fertiliser plants and other facilities are being planned for adequate utilisation of this precious resource." The outlook for Bangladesh was "brighter than ever".

Even the World Bank has good things to say. It praises the end of the prolonged civil unrest that earlier crippled the economy, stalled economic reforms, undermined hard-earned economic stability and weakened business confidence. The bank comments: "The enormous challenge of poverty reduction facing Bangladesh requires faster economic growth and human development. To this end, completing the unfinished reform programme is the key."

It advised in its last annual Bangladesh report that progress in privatisation, trade policy, legal and administrative reforms was "very limited". Sluggish growth in industry and uncomfortably low foreign exchange reserves were problems. Industrial performance in 1996-97 was affected by disruptions in gas supplies, labour disputes affecting Chittagong port and the boom/bust in the stock market last year.

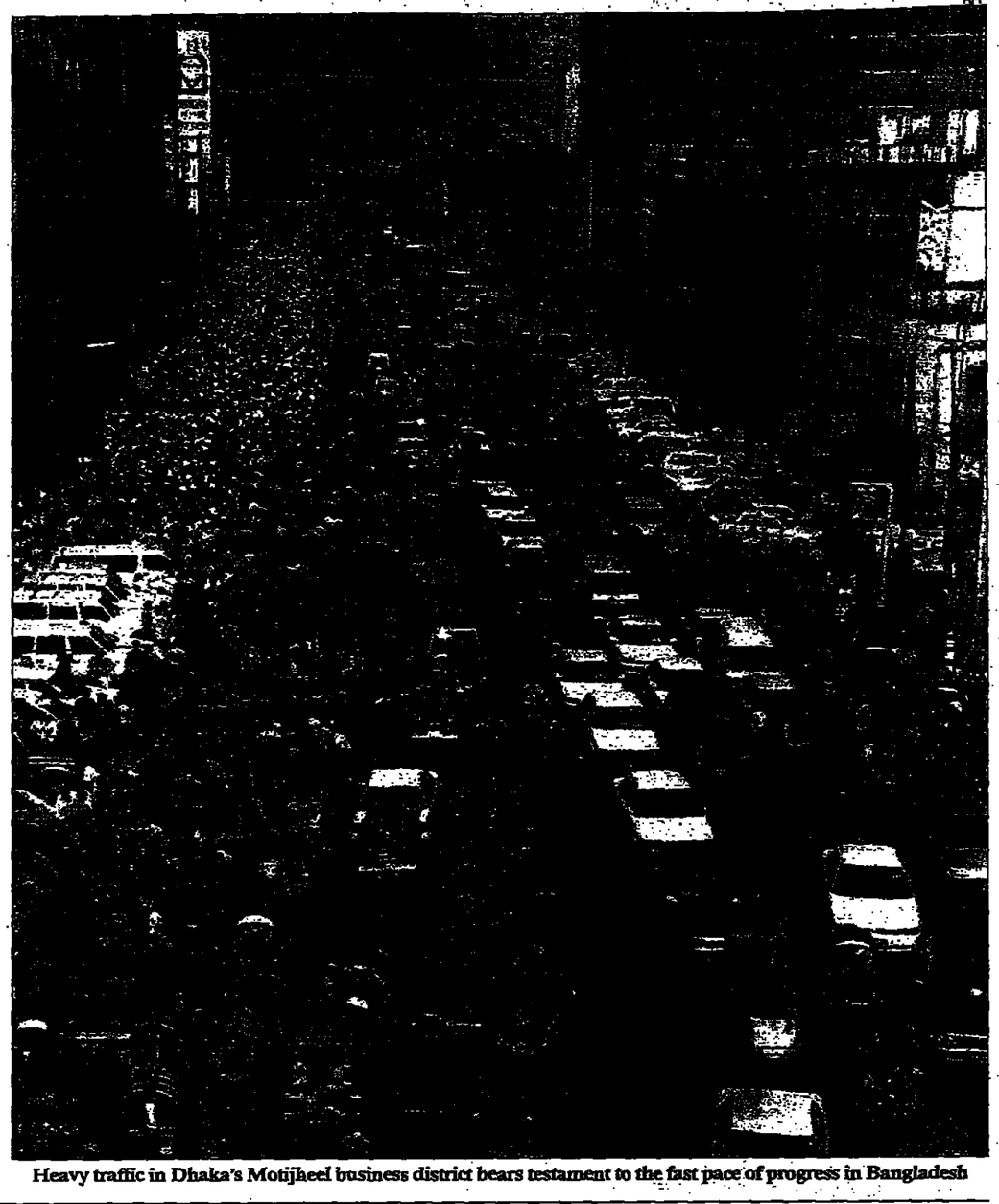
Strikes have long been Bangladesh's biggest economic curse. Foreign investors despaired of politically motivated stoppages and demonstrations that regularly paralysed the country, and there are groans of despair as the Government's opponents again threaten upheaval. President Shahabuddin Ahmed, a respected statesman, criticised "unscrupulous" politicians and trade unions for hampering rapid industrialisation. He also drew attention to the parlous state of nationalised industries.

For all this, there seem more reasons for optimism than gloom. Exports are maintaining 19 to 20 per cent annual growth, and the Government is optimistic about securing greater duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to developed and developing countries.

The aim is to increase exports from $6 billion a year to $10 billion over the coming decade. That would help to transform Dhaka, the capital, which groans under the strain of too many people and scarce resources. Rural migration will turn it into a mega-city by 2000. Half a million people already live in sub-human conditions in Dhaka.

That is the more familiar picture of Bangladesh, one that competes for the attention of potential foreign investors who want to be reassured that if they invest in the nation there will be enough electricity and gas, that workers will not repeatedly strike, that there will be no return to the politics of confrontation. The optimists are starting to be heard, but their voice will be drowned out by any return to the old ways.

AFP



Heavy traffic in Dhaka's Motijheel business district bears testament to the fast pace of progress in Bangladesh

Gas fields that fuel prosperity

ENERGY

The discovery of vast reserves of natural gas in the Bay of Bengal can change Bangladesh from one of the least developed countries in the world to Asia's fastest-growing economy. Sangu, the first offshore gas field, is expected to start production from the end of next month, *Ahmed Fazl writes.*

The British-based company Cairn Energy, which discovered the underwater gas field, said Sangu was expected to have a proven reserve of 833 billion cubic feet, which should increase to 1 trillion cubic feet in the future.

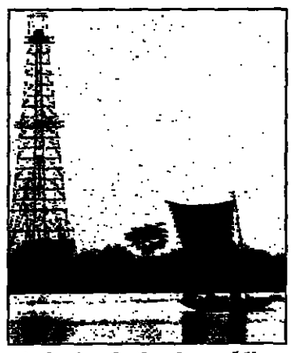
Officials in Petrobangla, the state-owned oil and gas exploration company, believe Sangu will be a flagship project which Bangladesh can show to other potential investors in the energy sector. Oil and gas experts consider it a remarkable project that will show the outside world how Bangladesh is rapidly moving into the new millennium.

Bangladesh's call for international gas and oil exploration bids last year produced a good response after the huge reserves in the Bay of Bengal were announced. No fewer than 80 leading oil companies took part in the bidding, Petrobangla sources said. Even an oil multinational, United Meridian Corporation, had entered into a production-sharing contract for exploration in the south eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts. The company plans to dig its exploration well soon and officials say there is a possibility of striking oil.

The Shell group is returning to Bangladesh with huge investments of £1.53 billion in a project to convert natural gas into petroleum products. It also plans to invest in power generation after the Government withdrew restrictions on private investment in this key sector.

The success of Cairn Energy in striking gas in the bay, and a package of incentives, has been drawing international oil firms to Bangladesh. Petrobangla officials say many new companies are showing an interest in exploring for fresh gas reserves there. Cairn Energy has signed a gas purchase and sale agreement with Petrobangla.

The British company's investments in Bangladesh may soon reach £121 million. Energy Ministry sources say Unolocal Corporation, which has teamed with the Occidental Group to drill for gas in a known reserve in north eastern Sylhet, had been awarded a contract for the development of the southern Bhola gas field.



A rig rises in the rice paddies

Discovered by Petrobangla in 1994, Bhola is estimated to have a reserve of 400 billion cubic feet of gas. Unolocal has also signed a deal to instal a coal-fired power plant in northern Bangladesh.

Nooruddin Khan, the Energy Minister, said the offshore gas would be used to meet current shortages in homes and factories and later deployed for production of fertilisers. "With the increased application of gas, the national economy will achieve annually a 7 per cent rise in GDP, which is essential for the country to take off," Mr Khan said. The Government is even considering privatisation of the exploration and development wing of Petrobangla to attract more foreign investment.

Positive image reaps benefits

ANALYSTS believe that the changing economic conditions in Asia are making Bangladesh attractive to potential foreign investors. Others point to the success in the past few years in maintaining macroeconomic stability with a low inflation rate and a steady foreign exchange reserve as drawing attention towards the country, *Ahmed Fazl writes.*

"The negative image is on the wane," says Farooq Sobhan, the executive chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI), the Government's main organisation to help foreign investors to set up industry individually or as joint ventures.

Mr Sobhan, formerly the country's Foreign Secretary, has been entrusted to brush up Bangladesh's image and properly project the investment-friendly climate.

The positive publicity campaign coincides with at least a dozen multinational oil and gas companies bidding for contracts to explore and sell the hydrocarbon from the country's potential reserves both on land and offshore.

About £4.8 billion as foreign direct investment is expected by the year 2000. A big share of the amount to be contributed by the foreign oil company. Mr Sobhan believes that oil, gas and energy will be major areas of foreign investment in the near future. The opening of telecommunications services and state-run railways will give a further boost to foreign investment.

Since taking charge of BOI some three months ago, he has met 300 investors who had come with specific proposals. Many such investors are interested in establishing their factories in the exclusive export processing zone. The BOI is a service for domestic and foreign investors. The investors who register with the BOI are provided with support services, such as power and water supplies and telephone connections, within a month.

In the 18 months from June 1996, more than 2,000 industrial units were registered with BOI with an investment capital of £1,020 million. Another 214 factories were set up with foreign direct investment capital of £800 million. These units provided about 250,000 jobs.

Next year, says Reinhold Heus, head of corporate finance at ANZ Investment Bank, the GDP growth in Bangladesh is likely to overtake the mean for the rest of Asia. "It is fair to say that for the coming year, if one is interested in investing in Asia, then South Asia should definitely be on the menu rather than South East Asia. Moreover, given its acceptable country risk level, Bangladesh should be seriously considered as an Asian investment destination."



Optimistic: Reinhold Heus

It has two export processing zones, one near the capital Dhaka and the other in southern Chittagong city, in operation. There are plans to expand the existing zones and set up another specialised area near Dhaka and three others in the south and in the northern part of the country. The country's industrial planners visualise a merger of technology and enterprise from advanced countries with the abundant and cheap labour force of Bangladesh to reap huge profits for both sides.

Holding back the waves

MORE than 100,000 people were washed away from Bangladeshi villages on the fragile Bay of Bengal coast during the cyclone in April 1991. The high death toll led both Bangladeshi planners and development experts from the western donor countries to ponder effective measures to protect lives, *Ahmed Fazl writes.*

Bangladesh's coast is constantly exposed to the fury of the wind rushing in from the bay. Fishermen, shrimp farmers, salt producers and water melon planters live in the coastal villages. The pressure of population in the hinterland is also forcing many to move to the coast and the offshore islands. The coastal villages also provide easy employment. But every year storms make life dangerous.

Life is a constant struggle, but the natural dangers to life are being faced with a massive tree planting campaign to create a green shield against the wind and water.

Bangladesh possesses the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sunderban. But environmentalists fear that illegal lumbering has severely reduced the number of trees, threatening the natural habitat of the tigers.

Hundreds of thousands of saplings are being planted on the treeless coast to cut down wind speeds and check receding waves. Government forest workers, non-government development agencies and private individuals have joined the campaign.

Ecologists say the vigour with which new trees are being planted will not only create a green belt along the coast, but also protect the country against soil erosion by rivers changing their courses frequently. "Trees are the best means to halt the decline of the fertile sedimentary rice plains," said S M Jalil, the top government forest conservator.

The tree plantation campaign has also picked up momentum in the interior of the country with the resurgence of public interest in raising small forests. Bangladesh is among the most densely populated countries in the world and can spare very little land for trees. The authorities are now promoting community and backyard forestry to replenish the tree world reduced by indiscriminate felling.

DOMINIC SANSONI/IMPACT



Politics and film stars — particularly buxom actresses — are the main themes on city rickshaws

Art and soul of the rickshaw drivers

ART

IT is the most popular art form in Bangladesh. Its admirers come from the plains of the north and the fishing villages in the south. Foreigners have written theses on it, yet no academy teaches the art form. It is not the latest craze, it has endured many decades. It is known as rickshaw art. *Ahmed Fazl writes.*

The rickshaws of Bangladesh are famous for their riot of raw colours, urban landscapes, images of film stars, strange creatures, populist figures and idyllic villages. Rickshaw owners buying a new three-wheeler in Dhaka have to spend thousands of taka (T) on its fancy design, including the paintings on the back of the carriage in one of many centres of rickshaw art in the capital city.

The designers in Dhaka first apply a coat of bright paint to the exterior and then cover the top canopy with a mass of small floral patterns. Life-sized portraits of film stars go on the back of the cover. But down below a rectangular tin plate is covered by an imaginary landscape in enamel paint. The painted villages show no poverty, no garbage and if there are pictures of female actresses, they appear more voluptuous than in reality.

Designs on urban rickshaws differ from those plying the country roads. But painters in this predominantly Muslim country do not hesitate to show their preoccupation with the female form. In Dhaka, rickshaws are plastered with a maze of designs.

In Chittagong, another major city, rickshaw art is dominated by pictures of actresses starring at local cinemas. The artists' liberty with female figures once forced the prudish Dhaka city council to seize the "objectionable" rickshaws under an anti-obscenity law left over from the colonial era.

It costs up to T8,000 (£100) to make a tricycle pedicab. At least a quarter of the amount is spent on the decoration. The owner of the paintshop employs workers on low wages to do the background paint. Those drawing human figures get bigger rewards.

An estimated 80,000 rickshaws operate in Dhaka daily, the most popular mode of transport for the burgeoning middle class. The Dhaka painters love portraits of buxom women in body-hugging dresses. In the small towns, rickshaw owners prefer urban scenes with high-rise buildings and motorway flyovers.

Politics have always played an important part in the portraits. A favourite is Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman, the founder president, who was assassinated during a revolt by army officers in 1975. Mujib's portraits were banned by the junta that seized power.

But pictures of the charismatic leader were once again seen on Dhaka's streets in the mid-Eighties as the army's role in politics waned. During the military autocracy, when many forms of cultural expression were banned or under censorship, rickshaw art kept alive political messages.

The artistic elite in Bangladesh has largely ignored the work of these untrained artists. Yet it remains a popular form of expression.



PAVEL RAHMAN/AP

A Shanti Bahini rebel leader hands over his gun to Sheikh Hasina during the symbolic surrender ceremony in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Peace at last in Chittagong Hills

Ahmed Fazl on how the Awami League and the Shanti Bahini agreed to stop the 20-year conflict

Kanti Mohan Chakma trekked for two days on a dusty trail in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to reach the Khagrachari district — a cluster of mud and straw hamlets that was once the battleground where government forces and the Shanti Bahini rebels fought.

A peace agreement signed between the Government and the rebel leaders on December 2 ended a bloody separatist campaign in southeast Bangladesh.

For Kanti Mohan, 54, the end of the decades-old insurgency revived hopes of a reunion with a man who had joined the outlaw guerrilla group six years before.

Kanti Mohan, who arrived in Khagrachari in early March, had a brief meeting with his son, a guerrilla fighter, near his own village Jurachari, close to the frontier, in 1995.

"I have heard that my son is alive and will come home soon," says the rice farmer, who belongs to the dominant Chakma tribe.

More than 10,000 people, mostly civilians, died in the intermittent war that forced 60,000 tribesmen to flee their ancestral villages. The decision by the military Government, which then ruled, to crush the demand for a tribal homeland with state-sponsored settlements of Muslim Bengalis from the plains sparked off rebellion in 1976.

The agreement has hastened the return of all Chakma refugees from India. Khagrachari, dotted with white Government buildings overlooking the Chengi River, has turned into a town of peace from one of conflict.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, whose ruling Awami League negotiated the peace accord, was in the town to receive the arms from the first batch of 700 fighters, led by Jayotindra Bodhipriyo Larma. The accord provides for regional autonomy to the tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts — about 5,500 square miles of hills and tropical forests.

The 68-point agreement, reached after protracted negotiations with the political wing of the Shanti Bahini, cleared the way for setting up the Barbattya Chattagram regional council. Under the accord, the council, headed by an elected tribal leader, would supervise law and order, administration and all development activities and would have a five-year term in office. The 22-member council will be dominated by representatives from the 12 ethnic tribes in the region.

> 'The end of the war revived hopes that Kanti Mohan could see his guerrilla son'

The dialogue between the Government and the Shanti Bahini began after the rebel leaders responded to the call from Ms Hasina for a negotiated settlement to the problem, scaling down their demands for outright independence to regional autonomy. Ms Hasina also announced a general amnesty for all the 2,000 tribal guerrillas turning over their weapons and promised cash and food grants.

The accord is considered a triumph for Ms Hasina's 20-month old Government. "A new era has dawned. No more bloodletting," said Zahidul Alam, a Bengali settler and a leader of the local Awami League. Although the accord has been generally well received, the country's main opposition parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), called a one-day strike to protest against the granting of regional autonomy.

However, the signing of the document between the tribal delegation and Ms Hasina's representative took place in the presence of the Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers, indicating the importance the ruling party has attached to finding a solution.

An opposition alliance by BNP chief and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia has planned further demonstrations against what they call a "sell out". Zia has called the peace process unconstitutional and a conspiracy to hand over large parts of the Chittagong Hills to India, which she claims have given shelter to the rebels for a long time. The BNP and its Islamic fundamentalist ally have since made the issue an emotional and political weapon, although it was Zia's Government which had held talks with the tribal militants during its 1991-96 tenure.

The opposition is clearly playing on the fears of the security of the Bengali settlers. Under the accord, further Bengali settlements will be stopped, but those already living in the hills would not be expelled. The Government has also put restrictions on the sale of tribal land to non-tribal people. It is obvious, however, that the peace accord is gaining popularity and the resistance against its implementation is melting away, officials say. The Government has promised massive investment on roads in the hills, new industries and the development of the region's hydrocarbon resources and its tourism potential.

"The initial hesitation and the lingering distrust have disappeared," says Jasrul Hussain, Khagrachari's district commissioner.

Kanti Mohan did not find his son at the official ceremonies marking the surrender of the rebels in the Hill Tracts. Fellow fighters said he had been missing for the past six months after an ambush by government forces.

There are others like Kanti Mohan whose sons are missing in action. They hope peace will help to close an agonising search as the Government and the former rebels exchange the records of the dead.

From exile to family dynasty

Sheikh Hasina, whose father won independence, suffered violence and fear on her path to power

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, had an early experience with the turbulence of politics. As a Dhaka schoolgirl in the Fifties, she had seen her dolls being smashed by policemen forcing entry into her room to arrest her father, *Ahmed Fazl writes*.

For someone raised in the country's most famous political family, such a brush with violence and repression during the stormy days of Pakistani rule over its eastern wing was inevitable.

Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman, the charismatic leader of the Bengalis, had taken the first step towards independence by demanding autonomy for East Pakistan in 1967 when his elder daughter Hasina was in college. Hasina said: "I dreaded that knock at the door at dead of night when my father used to be picked up by Pakistani police."



Charismatic: Sheikh Mujib

Mujib, who later spearheaded the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan, was in and out of prison for most of his 30-year polical career as a top leader of the presently ruling Awami League. Hasina recalls that when she wed, she and her nuclear scientist husband had to rush to Dhaka central jail to seek Mujib's blessing. Her admirers say that Hasina is not only wearing her father's political mantle, she has also inherited his charm, grit and determination.

> 'I dreaded that knock at the door in the night when the police came for my father'

In 1975, when a group of rebel army officers assassinated Mujib, Bangladesh's founding father and its first president, she and a younger sister were away in Germany. She survived the massacre in which 16 members of Mujib's close family, including his wife and three sons, were murdered. She was later forced into exile by the military, which toppled Mujib's administration.

When she was chosen as the president of the Awami League, Mujib's own party, in 1981, the restriction imposed by the military dictator against her return to the country was lifted. Hundreds of thousands of Mujib's admirers came to meet her at the airport on arrival. The political parties which had been badly shaken by Mujib's death were reorganised by her. She repeatedly faced the wrath of the military establishment, which considered her campaign for the restoration of democracy an open threat to their political ambitions. Her 15-year struggle finally put to an end the legacy of coups, political assassinations and authoritarian rule.

Born on 28 September, 1947, in a remote village in southern Gopalganj district, Hasina's political baptism came early. She got her first lesson in politics from her father.

A devoted mother and housewife, she was an unwilling entrant to politics. But the Awami League, which faced persecution after Mujib's death, depended on the Sheikh's family for regaining strength and morale.

When General Ershad, the last of the military rulers, seized power in 1982, Hasina was the first to protest against martial law. Eight years later with the support of other political groups, she forced the former army chief to step down, paving the way for general elections in 1991.

Hasina lost the election to her main political rival, Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, but five years later she returned victorious in polls held by a neutral Government under the watch of foreign observers. That political triumph lowered the curtain on a 21-year-long period in opposition for the Awami League.

Soon after assuming office on June 23, 1996, Hasina restored political calm after years of strife involving Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. She had decided early that what Bangladesh needed most was political stability to build confidence among foreign and domestic investors. Hasina offered to form a national consensus government to bury a heritage of volatile politics and killings.

Though the Bangladesh Nationalist Party remained unwilling to share power, Hasina went ahead with the election of a non-party figure as the country's titular President to keep the high constitutional office above party squabbles.

She also appointed cabinet ministers from diverse groups in the Parliament to prevent excessive polarisation in a country in which two presidents had been killed and four others deposed in the past 25 years.

CHRONICLE OF A NATION

December 16, 1971: *Independence from Pakistan*
January 12, 1972: Sheikh Mujib, freed by Pakistan, *becomes first President.*
March 1973: General election *for first Parliament* won overwhelmingly by Awami *League.*
February 1974: Recognition *from Pakistan*
December 1974: State of emergency *declared and constitution* suspended.
January 1975: *Parliamentary* Government replaced by presidential form. *Sheikh Mujib* becomes President.
August 15, 1975: *Sheikh Mujib* and members of his family *assassinated.*
November 7, 1975: Major *General Zia ur-Rahman* (General Zia) takes power.
May 30, 1981: *Zia ur-Rahman* assassinated in an abortive coup. *Vice President* Abdus Sattar becomes President.
March 24, 1982: General H. M. Ershad, chief of army staff, ousts *Government* of President Sattar.
September 1983: *Rival* political groups, led by Sheikh Hasina and *Begum Khalida* Zia, form Movement for the Restoration of *Democracy.*
November 1986: Constitutional government revived.
December 6, 1990: General Ershad forced to resign.
February 27, 1991: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by Begum Khaleda Zia, wins general election.
June 12, 1996: Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, wins general election.
December 12, 1996: Bangladesh and India *conclude* agreement on sharing the waters of the Ganges.
December 2,1997: Bangladesh Government and tribal rebels in Chittagong Hill Tracts reach accord to end decades-long insurgency.

Unrest haunts Hasina

POLITICS

BANGLADESH began afresh 21 months ago with the election of a new Government, ending two years of political agitation, strikes and demonstrations. Peace came just in time: international aid donors, exasperated by the turmoil, had threatened to reduce their contributions. That would have been catastrophic for the 58 million Bangladeshis estimated by the World Bank to be living in poverty.

Japan had already stopped sending aid missions to Dhaka, saying it would offer no additional assistance until Bangladesh proved it could utilise it properly. The missions have returned once more, relieved that there is minimal political trouble compared with the earlier chaos. For a time the country seemed to be slipping into anarchy.

Hundreds of factories were forced to close, the economy was in ruins and the business of Government was seriously hampered. Some observers began wondering whether it was time for the army to intervene.

But democracy survived and Sheikh Hasina has been repairing some of the damage caused by the agitation she led against Begum Khalida Zia, her predecessor as Prime Minister.

The battle of the begums could again erupt, however. Mrs Zia's Bangladesh National Party has threatened to launch an intensified campaign next month to topple Mrs Hasina's Awami League Government.

There have been violent clashes between supporters of the rival parties in Dhaka and any recurrence of large-scale trouble would threaten an economy still recovering from the last round of disturbances. The opposition has attacked the Government for allegedly bowing to India's diktats, for pulling troops out of the troubled Chittagong Hill Tracts and for raising the price of fuels and essential commodities.



Opposition: Khaleda Zia

Mrs Hasina, oldest daughter of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujib ur-Rahman, said the day after she took office: "I will heal wounds, not create new ones." But soon afterwards she went on the offensive. Any critic is liable to be condemned as a "*rajakar*" — the abusive word for collaborators of Pakistan during the 1971 War of Liberation.

Mrs Zia, meanwhile, is drawing huge crowds with her attacks on a Government she accuses of "utter failure". She told a rally of street hawkers that the Government should quit gracefully while there was still time — a hint of turmoil to come. "State machinery is not running. Stagnation is everywhere," she said.

She added that even government ministers were admitting all was not well — a valid point, given the remarks last week by Shah A. M. S. Kibria, the Finance Minister, who declared: "We cannot run our banks properly because corruption and indifference have gripped all sectors. We are incurring losses in train, bus and air services. How can we succeed when public utilities are running this way?"

Mrs Zia, widow of the late President Zia ur-Rahman, called on people to take to the streets to oust the Government.

International donors are worried that Mrs Zia will emulate the disruptive tactics of her rival. Certainly, she has laid the foundations for such a campaign. The Paris Club of donors would not look favourably on a new bout of trouble when considering aid levels to Bangladesh, whose development projects rely substantially on foreign assistance. Large amounts of aid went unspent in the last two years of Mrs Zia's Government because of opposition-lead disturbances.

Mrs Zia led the longest-serving Bangladesh Parliament since the founding of the nation. She came to power in 1991 after almost a decade of rule by a military dictator, General Ershad, who is out of prison and heads the Jatiya Party, which supports Mrs Hasina's administration. Mrs Zia lead a mass uprising against him, proving her mettle and courage as a leader. It remains to be seen whether she will launch another mass movement to topple another leader.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

Bangladesh Economy at the Threshold of a New Era of Growth and Prosperity

Shah A.M.S. Kibria
Minister of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

This will be the second time that the nation will celebrate the Independence Day after the Awami League under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina returned to power in June 1996. Unlike the years since August 1975 the nation celebrated the event last year with a spontaneous out pouring of patriotic emotions reminiscent of the joyous celebrations in 1972 when the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was present in our midst. On that occasion, despite the hardships of life in a war- ravaged country, there was a festive mood among the people. After a long struggle the people of Bangladesh had emerged victorious.

Once again Bangladesh has entered a new era of peace, progress and stability. The peace agreement in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has come in the wake of the 30-year Treaty with India on the sharing of the Ganges Water. The Government of Sheikh Hasina has successfully resolved two most difficult problems which had plagued the country for the last two decades. These are no mean achievements for a government barely two years old. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been acclaimed both at home and abroad for setting the stage for rapid economic and social development of the country. Indeed these were the two main impediments to peace and tranquility and rapid economic growth. There are few nations as homogeneous as the people of Bangladesh. There are no linguistic, cultural, ethnic or historical differences among the people. Unlike many countries in different parts of the world there are no civil strife or internecine disputes vitiating the peace and an environment of harmony in the society. There was indeed some difference of opinion between the Government and the Opposition on a few issues but the problem seems to have been peacefully resolved and the Parliament has once again become the centre of the nation's political life. While celebrating the Independence Day 1998 one can say with confidence that an objective condition has been cre ated in the country permitting the people to focus their single- minded attention on what the Father of the Nation began but could not complete the economic emancipation of the Bengali nation.

During our Liberation War many cynics expressed doubts about our economic viability. Bangladesh, Henry Kissinger once forecast, would be a "basket case". Those false prophets have been discredited by history. The strong, stable and growing economy of Bangladesh proves that they were wrong. Bangladesh has survived the trials and tribulations of the initial years and has emerged, according to economics and impartial observers, as one of the fastest growing economies of the world with bright prospects for the future. Compared to its many Asian neighbours, Bangladesh looks like an island of serenity and calm. What has happened to change the perceptions about Bangladesh? Why do the investors consider it to be a good investment destination? We have indeed become nearly self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains. We have also significantly reduced the population growth rate. We have become a major exporter of readymade garments. The growth rate of the country's exports are 20%, industrial pro duction is growing at the rate 12%, the growth rate in other sectors is also positive. Last year the GDP growth was 5.7%. The increase in the foodgrain subsector is slightly less than year but even then the GDP growth this year is expected to be closer to 6%.

The prospect for the Bangladesh economy has been brightened by a large deposit of natural gas in the country-both on shore and off-shore. Bangladesh has been producing natural gas for some years now but the estimates have changed in the last year and a half. Oil companies are convinced that the deposits in Bangladesh are big and should be sufficient to provide ample resources for the rapid develop ment of the economy. As a matter of fact, oil companies have lined up for concessions to explore for oil and gas in many parts of the country. Some of them have already struck large deposits. Power stations, fertilizer plants and other facilities are being planned for adequate utilization of this precious resource. There is growing demand for electricity in the country and the govern ment has already agreed to the setting up of power plants on BOO basis. But it is not merely because of these positive devel opments in the economic field that the prospects look bright. The nation has regained the con fidence it lost after the tradegy of 1975 when the Father of the Nation was brutally killed by a small group of conspirators and the country began to slide back wards. Democracy and democratic institutions were suppressed and the forces of reaction were unleashed. The electoral victory of the Bangla desh Awami League under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina has ushered in a new era. Liberal, secular and democratic values and ideals which inspired the freedom-fighters during the Lib eration War have been re-estab lished in the country.

As we celebrate the Independence Day 1998 and look forward to another year of progress, the overall outlook is brighter than ever before. Building upon our achievements since Independence, we are now in a position to shift gears and raise rates of investment and growth in the economy. There are some worrying clouds on the regional and international economic scene: the turmoil in Southeast Asian currency markets since June last year has raised a number of concerns. The prospects of a similar situation in Bangladesh are quite remote, however, as we do not have the problem of high levels of private foreign borrowings that characterized many of the troubled economies. Of course, there may be some impact on our export sector but we are taking careful note of the developments and taking necessary precaution ary measures.

Confidence in our economic prospects was boosted by the investors forum held in Dhaka in November last year. One excellent presentation by a leading multinational bank made a pow erful case for investing in this country, in which it was argued that Banglasdesh faced a prob lem of perceptions lagging well behind the reality of stability, security and high rates of return. Overall growth and corporation profits growth was the highest in the South Asian region, which, was projected by the World Bank to be one of the fastest growing regions next year. Clearly, in terms of the assessed risk-reward ratio which critically determines investment flows, Bangladesh scores well. Finally, the "icing on the cake" is expected to be the rapid develop ment, of the oil and gas sector in this country over the next few years, following important gas discoveries made over the past year. This will not only involve unprecedented levels of capital inflows for exploration and help solve the problem of power shortages in this country, there will naturally be various spin-off effects for the manufacturing and service sectors of the econ omy. Bangladesh is certainly at the threshold of a new era of stability and economic growth.

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CRICKET

England must resist appeal of mass change

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ST JOHN'S, ANTIGUA

THE trite reaction will be that nothing has changed, that England still cannot cope in the series that really matter. After a 3-1 defeat against a West Indies side commonly thought to be a shadow of its predecessors, the conclusion is hard to resist. Yet it would be harsh judgment on a tour that, for much of its course, offered the firm impression that England's cricket had more pattern and purpose than for some years.

It was by this same margin that England were beaten here four years ago, but the two series were incomparable. In 1994, England plunged three behind after three games; this time, they were competitive until the shocking week in Antigua that brought an innings defeat and the inevitable resignation of Michael Atherton.

This was the best-prepared of any England touring team and no previous side has been in the care of such a comprehensive, diverse management group. The reaction of the players to this was positive. They were coached and trained in a way that they enjoyed rather than resented. There was a feel-good factor. But they lost.

There is certain to be a new captain, with Alec Stewart heavily odds-on to take the job for the coming summer, but malcontents will also seek to change the coach, the selectors and most of the players. This time, however, those who routinely thirst for upheaval will be doing the game a serious disservice.

This is not a time to be panicked. In the coming ten months, England must play full series against South Africa, at home, and Australia away. If better players exist in England, which is arguable, they require careful admission rather than mass propulsion into a vacuum.

So if selection, preparation and welfare of players advanced, what did go wrong? Well, tosses and catches did, for a start. The toss was crucial in Georgetown, where the pitch disintegrated, and in Antigua, where it began inappropriately wet. Brian Lara won them both. England are not obviously a bad catching side. Sometimes they are very good. But they lapsed too often here, putting down 24 chances in five Tests.

Had Angus Fraser accepted that caught-and-bowled chance offered by David Williams from the first ball of the last day in Trinidad, the match would have been won. Almost certainly, the series would have followed. To load any accountability on Fraser, though, is manifestly unfair for there were days when he carried England's attack almost single-handedly.

For the preconceived policy of a four-man attack to succeed, it required three of the four to perform to potential on any given day. Too often, three of the four were way short. Headley's mitigation was inexperience. Caddick just continues to stretch the patience. Both are capable; both will always take wickets. The cost, on nerves and scoreboard, will frequently be extortionate. Darren Gough was greatly missed, but nobody can say he would have made the difference, although his fitness over the next year is paramount.

The spin bowling was a puzzle. Or perhaps the puzzle was who was bowling it. Phil Tufnell was chosen for every game and took seven wickets at 62 runs apiece. Robert Croft played once and took six at 23. Depressingly, Tufnell has become a defensive, good-wicket bowler, unable to respond to a turning pitch. With his batting in better repair than when shredded by the Australians, Croft should retake the position against South Africa.

Fraser apart, there were only two stellar performers and one of them, Mark Ramprakash, was not even included until the fourth Test, by which time Crawley and Hollioake had been found wanting. Now that he has convinced everyone, himself included, of his great ability, he may yet make 5,000 Test runs. He may also make a captain.

Stewart did not make a century but played with consistency and authority. Beyond doubt, he benefited from going in first without the distraction of keeping wicket, though the plan was not a complete success as Jack Russell endured his worst and probably last tour. A successor, though, is far from obvious and Stewart's duties could soon become uniquely heavy.

This would be a shame, for the opening pairing of Stewart and Atherton remains one of the most impressive things about England's cricket. So long as Atherton achieves his aim in refocusing on his batting, there is no cause to split them up.

England came out unsure of their No 3 and they will go home no wiser. Darren Maddy, one of the successes of the A tour, will be considered for promotion. So, too, of course, will Ben Hollioake, whose sensible inclusion on the A tour allowed him to play long first-class innings rather than spending weeks idle in the Caribbean. His time in Test cricket may be about to begin. He will require quick wits and a thick skin as well as his God-given talent.

Prize-money for the World Cup in Britain next year will total $1 million (about £625,000), three times more than when Sri Lanka were victorious in 1996. A new trophy was handed over to the England and Wales Cricket Board as details were announced in London yesterday.

ENGLAND AVERAGES

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/St
M R Ramprakash	3	5	1	266	154	66.50	1	1	2/0
A J Stewart	6	11	1	452	83	45.20	0	4	6/0
G P Thorpe	6	11	3	339	103	42.37	1	1	9/0
N Hussain	6	11	2	295	106	32.77	1	1	2/0
R D B Croft	1	2	0	40	26	20.00	0	0	1/0
M A Atherton	6	11	0	199	64	18.09	0	1	5/0
M A Butcher	5	9	1	125	28	15.62	0	0	4/0
J P Crawley	3	4	0	45	22	11.25	0	0	1/0
R C Russell	5	9	1	90	32	11.25	0	0	12/1
D W Headley	6	9	2	69	31	9.85	0	0	4/0

ALSO BATTED: A R C Fraser (8 inns, 44 runs), P C R Tufnell (6, 11), A R Caddick (7, 19); A J Hollioake (2, 14).

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	5w	10w	BB
A R C Fraser	187.2	50	492	27	18.22	2	1	8-53
D W Headley	171.3	28	546	19	28.73	0	0	4-77
A R Caddick	120	31	388	13	29.84	1	0	5-67
P C R Tufnell	212.4	68	439	7	62.71	0	0	2-43

ALSO BOWLED: R D B Croft 58 1-18-139-6, M R Ramprakash 41-9-118-3; M A Butcher 5-1-16-0; A J Hollioake 5-0-12-0

WEST INDIES AVERAGES

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/St
P A Wallace	2	3	0	198	92	66.00	0	2	2/0
C B Lambert	2	3	0	188	104	62.66	1	1	3/0
B C Lara	6	9	1	417	93	52.12	0	3	13/0
C L Hooper	6	6	2	295	108*	49.16	1	1	5/0
S Chanderpaul	6	9	1	272	118	34.00	1	0	4/0
I R Bishop	3	3	1	62	44*	31.00	0	0	1/0
R I C Holder	2	2	0	55	45	27.50	0	0	2/0

ALSO BATTED: D Williams (7 inns, 98 runs); S C Williams (6, 141); C E L Ambrose (6, 83); S L Campbell (6, 79); C A Walsh (6, 15), J C Adams (4, 113); N A M McLean (4, 22); K C G Benjamin (4, 7); D Ramnarine (2, 19); J R Murray (1, 4); F A Rose (1, 2).

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	5w	10w	BB
C E L Ambrose	205.5	82	428	30	14.26	2	0	5-25
D Ramnarine	91	37	148	9	16.44	0	0	4-29
C L Hooper	190.5	61	355	15	23.66	1	0	5-80
C A Walsh	261.2	83	564	22	25.63	0	0	4-80

ALSO BOWLED: N A M McLean 78-15-203-5; K C G Benjamin 63-14-166-3; I R Bishop 50-7-163-3; F A Rose 20-6-53-1, J C Adams 15-7-19-1; S Chanderpaul 10-3-35-0; C B Lambert 1-0-1-0

GILL ALLEN



With time running out before the Boat Race comes under starter's orders on Saturday, the Oxford crew warmed up with a brief jog at Putney Embankment yesterday before taking to the water (Mike Rosewell writes). However, they kept their efforts during two outings on the River Thames to a minimum, beginning the day by paddling to Chiswick Eyot without Sean Bowden, their coach, whose launch engine gave up, and then returning to Putney — by which time the unfortunate Bowden had rejoined them — to make use of a stake boat to practise starts. There was little to be learnt from watching their efforts, other than noting Bowden's attention to detail, as they contented themselves with a series of single strokes and then a five-stroke and ten-stroke effort. Martin Botting, the stake boat man, appeared to get more exercise than the crew.

There was more to watch when Cambridge appeared to race Goldie, a fixture that they lost on the same day last year. The first contest covered two minutes from London RC and was extremely keenly fought. Cambridge, on Surrey, went off at 43 and achieved cover in six strokes, but Goldie, stroked by David Cassidy, the president, led initially. Cambridge, never below 37 with Goldie two pips higher, got their nose in front after one minute and were half a length ahead at two minutes as the crews stopped with interlocking blades.

The second race, three minutes from Fulham with stations reversed, again saw Goldie show ahead. High rates, well above Boat Race expectations, followed again. Cambridge were down to 37 only briefly after a minute, when they were one third of a length up, but then, at 38, produced a second minute that gave them just a length. They were unable to increase this in the last minute approaching Hammersmith Bridge, when there were warnings and a slight blade clash. Through it all shone power and precision from both crews and no repeat of the upset in 1997.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Oxford 9.30am; Cambridge 9.45am; 4pm.
BOAT RACE: Saturday, 1.15pm.

McRae clings to lead

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **MOTOR RALLYING:** Colin McRae, of Scotland, held off the fast-finishing Carlos Sainz, of Spain, to win the Rally of Portugal by two seconds yesterday. It was his first win of the season, and the fourteenth of his career.

Sainz, who won the Monte Carlo Rally in January, had started the final day 27sec behind the Scot but charged through the field. He was only six seconds adrift going into the final stage of 14km and just failed to close the gap.

"Winning was the only option here and the ten points has put us back in contention, where we should be." McRae, who is now only eight points behind Sainz in the race for the world championship, said.

McRae, who had mechanical problems in two of the first three events of the season, added: "Today was tough, we were clearing the gravel off the road."

■ **RUGBY UNION:** Millfield won the prep schools tournament at the Shell UK National Schools Sevens at Rosslyn Park yesterday, beating Danes Hill 19-7 in the final to set up the possibility of a hat-trick, for the Somerset school still has teams left in the Colts and Open competitions. Millfield needed extra time to get past St Olave's in an outstanding quarter-final match that ended 24-17. In the junior final, Whitgift beat Bristol GS 27-14.

■ **SQUASH:** Tim Garner, the England No 8, who was making his 350th appearance for the club, took pride of place ahead of the world No 1, Peter Nicol, and the world champion, Rodney Eyles, as he led Ellis Lingfield to their first National Super League title. Garner beat Chris Walker, the England captain, 3-9, 10-8, 9-3, 9-6 as Ellis Lingfield beat the champions last year, ICL LionHerts, 3-0 to clinch the title.

■ **SAILING:** The British yacht, Silk Cut, is closing on the leader, EF Language, in the sixth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race. Lawrie Smith's boat was only 11 miles behind at 6pm, having cut the deficit by nearly six miles in the previous six hours. The leaders are expected in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday.

Silk Cut's chances of overtaking EF Language are bright because Paul Cayard's vessel is at present the slowest of the nine boats in the race.

■ **HOCKEY:** The management of the National Hockey League has deducted six points from Harleston Magpies for having fielded an ineligible player, Anthony Falkus, in several first division matches from February 21. The penalty dropped the Harleston club to nineteenth place.

Chinese to impose life ban for drugs

ANY Chinese swimmer who tests positive for steroids will be banned for life under new rules adopted by the country's officials, according to Fina, the international swimming federation. In its monthly newsletter, Fina said that China had decided to toughen its stance against banned performance-enhancing substances in the wake of a series of drug scandals involving Chinese swimmers. It also said that it had found no evidence of a "systematic" doping programme in China.

The Chinese Swimming Association will increase the number of drug tests this year to 600 and impose more severe sanctions, including a life ban for a first-time steroid offence, a harder punishment than is laid down by the governing body, which calls for a four-year suspension for a first offence and a life ban for a second. Sanctions for other banned substances, such as stimulants, will also be stricter than Fina rules.

Among other measures adopted by China are: coaches whose swimmers test positive will be punished without proof that the swimmer took banned substances; a club or local association will be fined and suspended from competition for one year if it records two positive cases within 12 months; and four positive cases within four years will result in suspension from domestic or international competition and disqualification from the next national games.

Fina had been under pressure to crack down on China after a spate of controversies at the world championships in Perth, Australia, in January. Four Chinese swimmers tested positive for taking a banned diuretic, which can be used to mask the use of steroids. In addition, Yuan Yuan, a woman competitor, was banned for four years and Zhou Zhewen, her coach, for 15 years after vials of banned human growth hormone were found in the swimmer's luggage.

Tendulkar continues masterclass

INDIA continued their dominance of the Test series against Australia with another sustained assault on their bedraggled attack on the opening day of the third and final Test in Bangalore. Sachin Tendulkar extended his recent rich vein of form with an unbeaten 117 as India reached 290 for four by the close.

Tendulkar, whose previous scores against the Australians were 204 not out, four, 155 not out and 79, dominated the touring team once again with 20 fours and two sixes in his sixteenth Test century — the fifth in his past eight matches.

The innings overshadowed the return to form of Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner, earlier in the day. Warne bowled Sidhu and Dravid in two overs soon after lunch. Sidhu was bowled round his legs by a ball that turned sharply as he attempted a sweep. Dravid was then beaten on the forward defensive stroke, the ball clipping the off stump.

Warne finished with two for 66 from 27 overs, a vast improvement on his figures of 141 for no wicket in the previous Test match at Calcutta. Sidhu, who hit eight fours and three sixes in a stylish 74, his fourth successive half-century in the series, put on 85 for the second wicket with Dravid, who made 23, before Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin, who scored 40, added 139 runs for the fourth wicket.

Kasprowicz had gained an early success when Laxman, who had made six, edged him to Taylor at first slip when the score was 24.

Yousaf sees Pakistan safely home

SAEED ANWAR and the promising Yousaf Youhana scored half-centuries to take Pakistan to a three-wicket win over Zimbabwe on the final day of the second Test in Harare yesterday, giving them a 1-0 victory in the two-Test series.

Pakistan, set a target of 192, stumbled from 58 for one overnight to 138 for five, but a swashbuckling 65 from Saeed Anwar and a confident 52 by Yousaf proved decisive. The day started badly for Pakistan when Mohammad Wasim was run out for eight in the second over. Four overs later, Inzamam-ul-Haq charged Adam Huckle, the leg spinner, and was stumped by Andy Flower for ten.

Saeed reached his fifty off 63 balls but soon after was superbly caught by the substitute fielder, Andy Whittall, at silly mid-on after pushing a ball from Guy Whittall firmly off his pads. The left-hander hit eight fours and a six in his 65, accumulated off 89 balls.

Moin Khan was fifth man out, edging the pace bowler, Heath Streak, to second slip for an unconvincing 21. Five overs after lunch, with Pakistan still 30 short of their objective, Ali Naqvi was caught behind for eight, trying to late-cut Huckle.

Pakistan eased towards their target under the influence of Yousaf, who, in only his third Test, reached his third half-century off 98 balls, having hit five fours and a six, before driving at Guy Whittall to be caught in the gully.

The touring team were then only six short of victory and Wasim Akram and Rashid completed the job.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

MEN'S EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Partizan Belgrade 87 CSKA Moscow 72; AEK Athens 88 Alba Berlin 68; Kinder Bologna 64 Teamsystem Bologna 52; Benetton Treviso 67 Efes Istanbul 57
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Tuesday: Philadelphia 79 Detroit 94, Chicago 111 Boston 88; Dallas 91 Minnesota 87; Denver 86 Los Angeles Lakers 107, Seattle 109 Sacramento 83, Vancouver 106 Los Angeles Clippers 95. Yesterday: Toronto 89 Charlotte 106, Atlanta 85 Orlando 73, Cleveland 85 San Antonio 86; Utah 92 Phoenix 73, Milwaukee 118 Houston 108, Portland 87 Washington 99; Golden State 75 New York 88

BOWLS

WELLINGBOROUGH: Churchill Insurance English Bowls Players Association singles championship: Regional play-offs: Group one: Quarter-finals: M Entwistle bt B Rees 3-7, 7-5, 7-5. R Stanley bt M Vickers 7-0, 7-2; T Hanger bt B Jackson 7-0, 7-4. K Allen bt J Rodmall 7-3, 7-3. Semi-finals: Entwistle bt Stanley 7-3, 7-3; Allen bt Hanger 7-2, 7-1. Final: Allen bt Entwistle 7-4, 7-1. Group two: Quarter-finals: E Vorsterman bt M Yelland 7-4, 7-3; S Mead bt M Owen 7-2, 7-3. K King bt A Briden 7-2, 7-2, M Coles bt G Palmer 7-5, 7-3. Semi-finals: Vorsterman bt Mead 7-0, 7-2; King bt Coles 7-6, 7-3. Final: King bt Vorsterman 7-6, 7-2. Group three: Quarter-finals: D Bird bt K Frost 7-3, 7-3, D Lockhart bt N Rees 7-4, 7-3, M Cooper wo B Hobart; G Harrington bt P Broderick 7-0, 7-1. Semi-finals: Lockhart bt Bird 7-0, 7-2; Cooper bt Harrington 7-4, 2-7, 7-5. Final: Cooper bt Lockhart 7-6, 7-4

BOXING

YORK HALL, Bethnal Green: Commonwealth middleweight championship: P Jones (Sheffield) bt J Tshuma (SA, holder) pts. Undercard: Middleweight (6rnds): A Dodson (Islington) bt N Tobias (SA) rsf 4th. O Abrahams (Watford) bt L Wicks (Hove) pts. Cruiserweight (6rnds): T Redman (Dolgellau) bt R Kane (Dublin) ko 5th. Welterweight (6rnds): G Smith (Basildon) bt J Green (Middlesbrough) rsf 1st. Light-middleweight (6rnds): M Khoza (SA) bt K Nevers (Hackney) pts.

CRICKET

Sixth Test match

West Indies v England

ST JOHN'S (final day of five): West Indies beat England by an innings and 52 runs

ENGLAND: First Innings 127 (D Ramnarine 4 for 29)

Second Innings

*M A Atherton lbw b Ambrose	13
A J Stewart c Wallace b Hooper	79
M A Butcher c Murray b Ambrose	0
N Hussain run out	106
G P Thorpe not out	84
M R Ramprakash b Ramnarine	0
†R C Russell lbw b Walsh	9
D W Headley c Murray b Ramnarine	1
A R Caddick c Murray b Walsh	0
A R C Fraser c Chanderpaul b Walsh	4
P C R Tufnell c Lambert b Walsh	0
Extras (b 6, lb 4, w 1, nb 14)	25
Total (147.2 overs, 550min)	321

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-49, 3-127, 4-295, 5-300, 6-312, 7-313, 8-316, 9-320

BOWLING: Walsh 31 2-7-80-4; Ambrose 20-5-66-2; Rose 11-2-39-0; Ramnarine 46-19-70-2; Hooper 39-18-56-1.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 500 for 7 dec (C L Hooper 108 not out, C B Lambert 104, P A Wallace 92, B C Lara 89).

Man of the match: D Ramnarine

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and C J Mitchley (South Africa)

Third Test match

India v Australia

BANGALORE (first day of five; India won toss): India have scored 290 for four wickets against Australia

INDIA: First Innings

V V S Laxman c Taylor b Kasprowicz	6
N S Sidhu b Warne	74
R S Dravid b Warne	23
S R Tendulkar not out	117
*M Azharuddin c Healy b Lehmann	40
S C Ganguly not out	17
Extras (b 8, lb 2, nb 5)	13
Total (4 wkts)	290

†N R Mongia, A Kumble, Harvinder Singh, Harbhajan Singh and S L V Raju to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-109, 3-110, 4-249

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 21-4-46-1; Dale 16-4-49-0; Warne 27-8-66-2; Blewett 9-3-26-0; Robertson 8-0-44-0; Waugh 4-0-24-0, Lehmann 7-1-27-1

AUSTRALIA: *M A Taylor, M J Slater, G S Blewett, M E Waugh, R T Ponting, D S Lehmann, †I A Healy, S K Warne, G R Robertson, M S Kasprowicz, A C Dale.

Umpires: V K Ramaswamy (India) and D R Shepherd (England)

Second Test match

Zimbabwe v Pakistan

HARARE (final day of five): Pakistan beat Zimbabwe by three wickets

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 277 (G J Whittall 82, M W Goodwin 53, B C Strang 53; Waqar Younis 4 for 47)

Second Innings

G W Flower lbw b Wasim Akram	6
G J Rennie c Yousuf b Waqar	0
M W Goodwin c Inzamam b Waqar	81
*A D R Campbell lbw b Azhar	14
†A Flower c Inzamam b Mushtaq	49
G J Whittall c Rashid b Azhar	15
T N Madondo c Rashid b Azhar	2
H H Streak not out	37
B C Strang c Yousuf b Mushtaq	21
A G Huckle b Wasim Akram	0
M Mbangwa lbw b Wasim Akram	3
Extras (b 13, lb 15, nb 12)	40
Total	268

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-9, 3-38, 4-133, 5-166, 6-175, 7-205, 8-255, 9-255.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 33-8-70-3, Waqar Younis 25-3-60-2; Azhar Mahmood 16-7-26-3; Mushtaq Ahmed 37-6-84-2

PAKISTAN: First Innings 354 (Mohammed Wasim 192, Mushtaq Ahmed 57).

Second Innings

Saeed Anwar c sub b Whittall	65
Azhar Mahmood c Campbell b Streak	9
Mohammad Wasim run out	8
Inzamam-ul-Haq st A Flower b Huckle	10
Yousuf Youhana c Goodwin b Whittall	52
Moin Khan c Campbell b Streak	21
Ali Naqvi c A Flower b Huckle	8
Wasim Akram not out	12
*†Rashid Latif not out	1
Extras (b 2, lb 3, nb 1)	6
Total (7 wkts)	192

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-59, 3-77, 4-105, 5-138, 6-162, 7-186

BOWLING: Streak 13-5-40-2; Whittall 15-4-35-2; Mbangwa 2-0-11-0; Huckle 18.5-1-81-2; Strang 5-0-20-0

Man of the match: Mohammed Wasim.
Man of the series: Waqar Younis.
Pakistan win series 1-0.

Umpires: R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and S G Randell (Australia)

GOLF

SUNNINGDALE FOURSOMES: Old Course: Second round: C Tucker and S Mantell (Mannings Heath) bt P Simpson (West Berkshire) and D Craik Jr (Chipping Norton) at 19th; W Bennett (unattached) and D Fisher (Stoke Poges) bt A George (Ely City) and P Davis (Saffron Walden) 1 hole; T Charnley (unattached) and D Charlton (Tilsworth) bt M King and J Putt (Sunningdale) 1 hole; P Lane (Stack Hotel) and D Fitzsimmons (Harpenden Common) bt R McFarlane (European Tour) and R Warner (Farnham Park) 1 hole; R Fenwick (Bognor Regis) and L Walters (Chevin) bt N Burke (Horsham) and W Grant (Pachesham) 2 and 1; J Smith (Burhill) and D Boxall (Addington Palace) bt I Benson (Blackmoor) and R Edwards (Portsmouth) 2 and 1; O Lindsay (Luffness New) and B Pile (Woburn) bt C Harman and B Smith (Theydon Bois) 3 and 2; M Allen (Eaton) and D Quinney (Haverhill) bt D Copsey (Coulsdon Manor) and J Edwards (Knowle Park) 2 and 1; S Andrew and L Slattery (Clitheroe) bt J Hamilton and M Payne (Brickendon Grange) 5 and 4, S Godfrey and K Godfrey (St Enodoc) bt M James (unattached) and T Paterson (Leatherhead) 3 and 2; R Hurd (The Manor of Groves) and L Jones (Trent Park) bt S Rolley and S Nightingale (Worthing) 2 and 1; D Mackinnon (Fairhaven) and I Reay (Bury) bt M Newman (Foxbridge) and G Edwards (Windlesham) 4 and 2; J Marshall (Westerham) and M McLean (European Tour) bt L Owens (The Royal Dublin) and B McGovern (Headfort) at 19th; M Landesborough and A Smith (Royal Ashdown Forest) bt J Soulsby (Gosforth Park) and C Duffy (Maidenhead) 2 and 1, R Misra and M Aubrey-Fletcher (Sunningdale) bt J Tucker and G Hickham (Roehampton) at 22nd, R Peacock and S Kay (Grims Dyke) bt P Alabaster (Three Rivers) and S Downton (Orsett) 1 hole. Third round: Hall and Wadsworth bt Maxwell and Panton-Lewis 4 and 3; Chapman and Will bt Bott and Loxley 6 and 5; Lane and Fitzsimmons bt Charnley and Charlton 4 and 3; Lindsay and Pile bt Allen and Quinney 7 and 5; Palmer and Walmsley bt Tinworth and Stanford 1 hole; Emerson and Tokely bt Hilton and Lewin 2 holes; Bennett and Fisher bt Tucker and Mentall 4 and 3: Fenwick and Walters bt Smith and Boxall 3 and 2; Barwick and Woodman bt Head and Head 2 holes; Farmer and Lunn bt Kiddle and Hall 4 and 3; Andrew and Slattery bt Godfrey and Godfrey 4 and 3, Misra and Aubrey-Fletcher bt Peacock and Kay 9 and 7; Hurd and Jones bt Mackinnon and Reay 3 and 1, Hodgkinson and Carr bt Mackenzie and Mackenzie 1 hole, Wheals and Joyce bt Mely and White 2 and 1

New Course: Second round: J Hall (Ladybank) and H Wadsworth (Women's European Tour) bt J Livesley and G Bothwell (Moor Park) at 20th; K Maxwell (Sunningdale) and C Panton-Lewis (McDonalds) bt G Potter and K Kelsall (Old Fold Manor) 3 and 2; A Bolt and P Loxley (Old Thorns) bt S Eaton (Clitheroe) and B Tye (Burnley) 3 and 2; R Chapman (European Tour) and K Will (Knole Park) bt L Ficking and M Deal (Enfield) 4 and 3; M Palmer (Mill Ride) and G Walmsley (unattached) bt W Stephens (Windlesham) and M Gates (European Tour) 2 and 1; R Tinworth (Hever) and L Stanford (Moatlands) bt A Lancaster (Lytham Green Drive) and J Twissell (Clitheroe) 5 and 4; G Emerson (Salisbury and S Wilts) and N Tokely (Broadstone) bt P Way and T Crawley (London) 1 hole; M Hilton and P Lewin (East Sussex National) bt J Lovell (Brokenhurst Manor) and G Hughes (Petersfield) 5 and 4; S Head and J Head (Goodwood) bt I Higgins and S McCarthy (Royal North Devon) 5 and 4; S Barwick and G Woodman (East Berkshire) bt R Watts and D Hart (The Lambourne) 5 and 3; L Farmer and K Lunn (Moor Park) bt S Gallagher (Trentham Park) and R Fisher (Newcastle under Lyme) 2 and 1; F Kiddle (Elton Furze) and C Hall (Rushcliffe) bt R Lee (Nissan Ireland) and M Davis (Thorndon Park) 4 and 3; M Mackenzie (Hillsborough) and I Mackenzie (Hallamshire) bt T Rattue and A Morganti (St George's Hill) 4 and 3; R Hodgkinson (Lindrick) and P Carr (Sunningdale) bt M Peel and D Peel (Stockport) 3 and 2; T Wheals (Maylands) and R Joyce (West Essex) bt G Harris and L Meredith (Reading) 1 hole; G Mely (Porters Park) and A White (St Andrews New) bt L Jackson and J Carlsen (Frilford Heath) 4 and 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tuesday: Chicago 5 Detroit 5 (OT); Florida 3 Carolina 5. Yesterday: New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 2; Calgary 0 Buffalo 2; Phoenix 4 Toronto 2; Vancouver 4 New York Islanders 3; San Jose 3 Los Angeles 4

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: London Irish 23 Gloucester 19.
ROSSLYN PARK: National schools sevens: Open tournament: Group winners: Llandovery, Bromsgrove, John Fisher, Cross Keys, Stonyhurst, St Bees, Rydal, St Benedict's, Campion, Millfield, St Joseph's Ipswich, Hampton, Llanhari, Judd, Durham, Latymer Upper. Knockout stages: First round: Llandovery 24 Bromsgrove 14; John Fisher 48 Cross Keys 0; Stonyhurst 45 St Bees 0; Rydal 29 St Benedict's 7; Campion 14 Millfield 17; St. Joseph's, Ipswich 21 Hampton 14; Llanhari 31 Judd 5; Durham 35 Latymer Upper 0. Colts tournament: Group winners: Millfield, Oratory, Llanhari, RGS Guildford, Bryanston, Aylesbury, Colston's, Dwr-Y-Felin, Tregib, King's Taunton, Glantaf, Wellington Coll, Brighton. Knockout stages: First round: Millfield 26 Oratory 10; Bryanston 7 Aylesbury 17; Colston's 42 Dwr-Y-Felin 19; Tregib 0 King's Taunton 29; Glantaf 17 Wellington Coll 28. Junior tournament: Knockout stages: Quarter-finals: Manchester GS 10 Bristol GS 14; Queen Elizabeth, Barnet 34 Bradford 0; Pool 7 Strade 22; Whitgift 19 Hymers 10. Semi-finals: Bristol GS 20 QE Barnet 7; Strade 7 Whitgift 12. Final: Bristol 14 Whitgift
Preparatory schools tournament: Quarter-finals: Bedford 7 St Mary's Hall 5; Shrewsbury House 14 Danes Hill 32; Howsham Hall 19 Dragon 0; Millfield 22 St Olave's 17 (aet). Semi-finals: Bedford 0 Danes Hill 2[illegible]; Howsham Hall 5 Millfield 24. Final: Danes Hill 7 Millfield 19.

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Sixth leg (São Sebastião to Fort Lauderdale): Latest positions (as at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Fort Lauderdale): 1, EF Language (Swe) 1,408.7; 2, Silk Cut (GB) 1,428.7; 3, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,452.5; 4, Swedish Match (Swe) 1,455.4; 5, Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,468.5; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 1,493.3; 7, Toshiba (US) 1,511.8; 8, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 1,543.6; 9, EF Education (Swe) 1,592.7.

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: First round: F O'Brien (Ire) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-2; J Parrott (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 6-2; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J White (Eng) 6-2.

SQUASH

HURGHADA, Egypt: Women's World Grand Prix finals: Second qualifying round: Pool A: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt C Jackman (Eng) 9-7, 9-1, 9-3. E Irving (Aus) bt C Owens (Aus) 9-6, 9-3, 9-5. Pool B: M Martin (Aus) bt S Horner (Eng) 9-3, 9-2, 9-6; S Schone (Ger) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-0, 5-9, 9-4, 9-4
NATIONAL SUPER LEAGUE: Ellis Lingfield 3 ICL LionHerts 0; Durraven Maesteg 2 UUNET Surbiton 1; Halifax Insurance 2 Rowlands Manchester 1.

Final table

	P	W	L	Pts
Lingfield	10	8	2	92
Maesteg	10	7	3	85
LionHerts	10	5	5	66
Halifax	10	3	7	60
Manchester	10	4	6	59
Surbiton	10	3	7	58

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: Third round: A Corretja (Sp) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; G Kuerten (Br) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6; S Campbell (US) bt T Martin (US) 1-6, 7-5, 7-5. Fourth round: J Tarango (US) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; T Henman (GB) bt P Korda (Cz) 6-4, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt G Rusedski (GB) 6-2, 6-2; M Rios (Chile) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-2, 6-3; Campbell bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-7, 6-2, 7-5; Corretja bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, Kuerten bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. A Agassi (US) bt A Costa (Sp) 7-6, 4-6, 6-1. Women: Fourth round: S Farina (It) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1; L Davenport (US) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; A Kournikova (Russ) bt C Martinez (Sp) 6-3, 6-0. Quarter-finals: M Hingis (Switz) bt S Williams (US) 6-3, 1-6, 7-6; V Williams (US) bt Farina 6-1, 6-2

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 23pts £718,964.00. 22 £1,191.65, 21 £78.70, 20 £13.20. Half-time result (21 pts maximum): 21 £171.85. Four draws: £20.10. Nine homes: £11.30. Five aways: £8.75.
VERNONS: Treble chance: 22pts £4,541.65, 21 £45.30, 20 £6.98
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 23pts £7,712.10, 22 £43.15, 21 £4.70, 20 65p. Four aways: £8.40. Eight homes: £8.20. Four draws: £9.20. All draws treble chance (from all 14 draws): 24pts £745.55, 23 £5.75. Fair five: £43.50. Lucky numbers: 18 27 3 15 29 22

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	5	155	good	powder	fair	sun	1	23/3
(Lots of great varied skiing both on and off piste)								
Obergurgl	80	190	good	varied	good	sun	-1	23/3
(Excellent skiing on all pistes in lovely sunshine)								
FRANCE								
Méribel	88	140	good	powder	fair	sun	1	24/3
(Great skiing conditions. Fine snow and weather)								
Tignes	107	210	good	varied	fair	sun	-2	24/3
(Great skiing at all levels. Pistes much refreshed)								
Val d'Isère	85	205	good	powder	icy	sun	2	24/3
(Plenty of great skiing, a few icy spots on lower runs)								
SWITZERLAND								
Villars	10	50	fair	varied	closed	sun	1	24/3
(Cooler temperatures have given hard-piste skiing, am)								
Wengen	5	60	good	varied	closed	sun	0	24/3
(Excellent skiing in all areas on well-groomed slopes)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Ipswich; Queens Park Rangers v West Ham (at Harrow Borough, 2.0).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Tiverton v Mangotsfield Utd.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Waltham Abbey v Amersham.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Glossop North End

UNIJET SUSSEX LEAGUE: John O'Hara Cup: Semi-final: Langney Sports v Portfield.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Kings Norton v Wednesfield.

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Sunningdale foursomes.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Club match: Doncaster v York (7.30).

RUGBY UNION: National schools sevens (at Rosslyn Park).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (at Goffs, Co Kildare).

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Ipswich v Poole (7.30); Swindon v Wolverhampton (7.30).

SQUASH: British Open pre-qualification (at Lambs Club, London).



RACING: SCUDAMORE'S ACHIEVEMENT ECLIPSED AT LUDLOW

McCoy puts success of Petite Risk on record

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

TONY McCOY explored new heights yesterday when he beat the record of 221 wins in a National Hunt season set nine years ago by Peter Scudamore. The champion jockey's victory on Petite Risk in the Bundy Europe Juvenile Hurdle at Ludlow assures his place alongside such great names of National Hunt racing as Fred Winter, Terry Biddlecombe, Jonjo O'Neill, John Francome, Richard Dunwoody and Scudamore.

However, what makes McCoy's achievement more remarkable is that his latest record came just four years and a week after he first rode in a jump race at Leopardstown on March 17, 1994. Few jockeys have enjoyed such a meteoric rise.

Indeed, there is growing recognition within racing that McCoy, 23, is perhaps the greatest jump jockey of all — a title which has belonged, unofficially at least, to Francome. John McCririck, the Channel 4 pundit who labelled Francome "the world's greatest jockey", is the first to acknowledge McCoy's claims to the title. "It looks like a dead-heat, but I fear when the judge examines the print of the photo finish the verdict will be in favour of McCoy," he said yesterday. "One doesn't like to see former idols toppled but Tony McCoy is exceptional. It is the ultimate accolade when punters put horses ridden by certain jockeys — Pat Eddery, Frankie Dettori and McCoy — in their doubles and trebles. They ignore the form and back the jockey."

When McCoy arrived in England in 1994, he had ridden six winners on the Flat and seven over hurdles — and never raced in a steeplechase. Yet at the end of his first season here, he was champion conditional jockey and his 74 winners broke the record set by Adrian Maguire.

A season later he was champion jockey with 175 winners, beating established stars such as Dunwoody in the process. By the start of the 1996-97 term, he had linked up with Martin Pipe, the champion trainer, and went on to win the Champion Hurdle and Cheltenham Gold Cup as he amassed 190 winners and another champion jockey's title. In between, he has ridden the fastest 100 and 200 winners — and is likely to get close to 300 this term.

McCoy, who was two when he first sat on a pony, has always wanted to ride and skipped school from an early age so he could spend more time with horses. Toby Balding, the Hampshire trainer responsible for bringing the teetotal, non-smoking Northern Irishman to England, believes his desire to win is the key to his astonishing success. "It is all down to his innate desire to ride in every race, which is really what he wants to do. He is as hungry a jockey as I have ever met.

"His first year here was very busy, particularly as his weight was not easy for him. At the end of the season I told him to go on holiday for three weeks and have a decent rest. When I picked up the paper the next morning I saw he had three rides at Kilbeggan — he had gone on a riding holiday in Ireland.

"He improved and reached a level very quickly, that was the amazing thing about him. He has a lovely style. He was bit agricultural over fences at first, but he soon overcame that with his natural ability."

McCoy, an inch short of six feet, is hardly the ideal shape to be a jump jockey, yet he always looks neat on a horse — and he has been fortunate in avoiding serious injury. Indeed, his worst injury contributed to his success.

After breaking a leg on the gallops while with Jim Bolger in Ireland early in 1993, his weight ballooned from 7st 10lb to 9st 7lb — which made him turn his attention from being a Flat jockey.

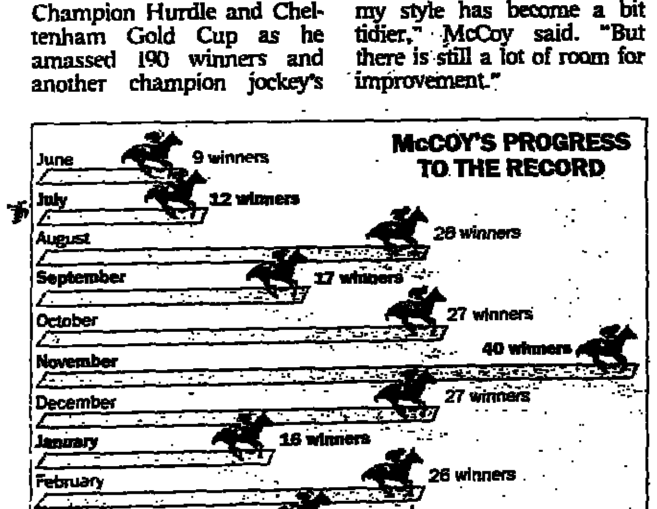
Balding added: "The way he rides does open him up to some pretty horrific falls. A prime example was in the Triumph Hurdle on Gold Cup day when he had what looked like as nasty a fall as you get. He was in front of 27 other horses and yet not one touched him and he ended the day riding three winners. Tony McCoy must be blessed."

The best may still be to come. "I like to win and I think my style has become a bit tidier," McCoy said. "But there is still a lot of room for improvement."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



McCoy salutes his record-breaking victory yesterday



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5 furlongs, Doncaster 3.10pm, Live on CH4 TV.

9/2 Depreciate
8/1 Passion For Life
8/1 State of Caution
9/1 Rudi's Pet
10/1 The Gay Fox
11/1 Sharp Hat
12/1 Dancethenightaway
14/1 Afaan
14/1 Ansellman
14/1 Lord High Admiral
14/1 Proud Native
16/1 Gadge
16/1 Cauda Equina
16/1 Pure Coincidence
20/1 Spender
25/1 Fire Dome
33/1 Banningham Blade
50/1 Swynford Dream

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Racecourses seek perfect pitch

THE biggest shake-up in racecourse betting for half a century, from computerised betting tickets to an auction process for bookmakers' pitches, will be introduced later this year (Richard Evans writes). Outdated practices will be swept away under plans unveiled by the Horserace Betting Levy Board yesterday.

The changes, many of which will come into effect by October, follow seven years of negotiations between racecourses and the bookmakers, which ended in stalemate last October. The Levy Board's intervention should result in a move towards punter-friendly betting rings.

Although the existing seniority system used by bookmakers to determine pitch positions in the betting ring will be maintained in principle, transferring seniority by auction will be introduced. A sizeable number of auctions are likely as older bookmakers cash in their positions — bringing new blood into the betting ring.

Bookmaker pitches will be allowed outside the main betting ring — including in members' areas, the paddock and hospitality. Betting tickets or slips will have to give the bookmaker's name and address, the race name and time, the amount staked and at what price — which will lead to the widespread introduction of computer terminals.

Bookmakers will have to display the minimum bet they will accept and the maximum liability laid per punter — and they will be obliged to "price-up" at least ten minutes before scheduled race times. Betting ring managers and betting advisors will be appointed for each racecourse and a new body, the National Joint Pitch Council, will be set up to police the system. Sir John Sparrow, chairman of the Levy Board and a three-man committee which produced the changes, said the necessity to improve customer service brought about the changes.

The start of the new turf Flat season at Doncaster this afternoon sees the introduction of another welcome concept — the showcase race. These races, worth a minimum of £10,000 on the Flat, will be staged every weekday to provide off-course punters and racegoers with a guaranteed highlight — even on the quietest racing day. By their nature, they are unlikely to be the easiest puzzles to solve, and that is certainly the case with the Tote / 49s Handicap (3.10), for which 18 line up.

Fitness at this time of year is all important and, with two recent wins under his belt on the all-weather, **Depreciate** will lack nothing in that department. He has improved since moving to David Barron and can continue the run on turf.

The same thinking suggests that the Les Eyre-trained **Bawsian** holds strong claims in the Back A Winner by Train Handicap (2.35), while Barry Hills can take the Doncaster Mile (3.40) with **In Command**. In the Brocklesby Stakes (2.05), **Hadeqa** is a tentative choice.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BAWSIAN (2.35 Doncaster)
Next best: Depreciate (3.10 Doncaster)

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Exeter

Going: good to soft

2.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Miss Ondee (Jamie Evans, 10-11 fav); 2, Obelos (7-1); 3, Thomas Crown (15-2). 8 ran. Dist: 22l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.20, £1.90. DF: £6.60. CSF: £6.99.

2.50 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Bally Lira (S Burrough, 7-1); 2, Tilly (7-4 fav); 3, Happy Horse (33-1). 7 ran. 18l, 13l. P Rodford. Tote: £7.80; £2.50, £1.60. DF: £5.70. CSF: £15.79.

3.20 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Ragtime Boy (I Lawrence, 10-1); 2, Bagalino (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Saxon Duke (3-1 jt-fav). 12 ran. NR: Gemma's Wager, Toskano. 6l, 8l. C Barwell. Tote: £12.20; £4.00, £1.10, £1.60. DF: £19.40. Trio: £17.30. CSF: £39.68. Tricast: £108.43.

3.50 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Capenwray (W Marston, 2-1; Timekeeper's top rating); 2, Pennymoor Prince (13-8 fav); 3, Milcroft Riviera (2-1). 4 ran. NR: Lance Armstrong. 2½l, dist. J King. Tote: £2.80. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.19.

4.20 (3m 2f ch) 1, Sorrel Hill (Mr L Jefford, 6-4 fav); 2, Saint Joseph (5-1); 3, Rusty Fellow (16-1). 8 ran. 9l, dist. Mrs C Egalton. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £7.20. CSF: £7.90.

4.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Va Utu (Jamie Evans, 13-2); 2, Grand Applause (7-1); 3, Ilegal Alien (9-4 fav). 11 ran. NR: Green Island. 1l, ½l. M Pipe. Tote: £4.70; £1.70, £3.80, £1.50. DF: £24.10. Trio: £18.80. CSF: £43.35. Tricast: £114.36.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £5,603.66 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £29.90. Quadpot: £14.40.

Ludlow

Going: good to soft

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Anlace (Chris Webb, 14-1); 2, Doctoor (3-10 fav); 3, Laser Light Lady (100-1). 7 ran. NR: Nirvana Princess. 1½l, 9l. S Mellor. Tote: £12.70; £3.10, £1.10. DF: £3.70. CSF: £17.09.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Maid For Adventure (B Fenton, 11-4); 2, Desert Calm (9-1); 3, Side Bar (50-1). Bold Statement 4-5 fav. 8 ran. NR: Nagara Sound. 27l, 6l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £4.40; £1.30, £1.40, £8.10. DF: £20.30. Trio: £71.20. CSF: £21.30.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Petite Risk (A P McCoy, 8-11 fav); 2, The Roundsills (25-1); 3, Cybertechnology (2-1). 8 ran. 13l, 22l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £4.20, £1.40. DF: £29.10. CSF: £20.73.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Eben Al Habeeb (R Dunwoody, 9-2); 2, Oakmont (4-1); 3, Midas (9-4 fav). 7 ran. 9l, 2½l. D McCain. Tote: £5.60; £2.60, £2.30. DF: £12.10. CSF: £22.11.

4.00 (3m ch) 1, Philatelic (N Williamson, 9-4; Thunderer's nap); 2, Hand Woven (11-8 fav); 3, Jacob's Wife (20-1). 6 ran. NR: Herbert Buchanan. 5l, 2l. R Alner. Tote: £2.70; £1.90, £1.40. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.73.

4.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Cabin Hill (Miss E J Jones, 11-4); 2, Always Remember (2-1 fav); 3, Scotoni (16-1). 12 ran. NR: Great Gusto, Mr Bean, My Nominee. Dist, 28l. Mrs A Price. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £1.30, £2.70. DF: £4.20. Trio: £29.70. CSF: £8.12.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, Commanche Law (N Williamson, 3-1); 2, Alta (11-2); 3, Bansha House (33-1). Our Ghillie 7-4 fav. 18 ran. 3½l, 1½l. K Bailey. Tote: £6.20; £1.40, £3.00, £9.50. DF: £10.90. CSF: £19.42.

Placepot: £40.90. Quadpot: £12.60.

Towcester

Going: good to soft

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, Hotspur Street (Miss S Samworth, 10-1); 2, Hever Golf Eagle (14-1); 3, Admiral's Guest (5-2 jt-fav). North End Lady 5-2 jt-fav. 11 ran. 1, 7l. E James. Tote: £10.10; £2.20, £2.80, £1.30. DF: £50.90. Trio: £69.70. CSF: £114.94.

2.40 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Shadrach (R Thornton, 4-1); 2, Willie Wannabe (25-1); 3, Wayfarers Way (10-11 fav). 4 ran. 18l, 1½l. Mrs H Mobley. Tote: £4.70. DF: £16.20. CSF: £34.85.

3.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Petlaugh (Michael Brennan, 13-2); 2, Miss Brocknell (7-1); 3, Thirty Below (11-1). Five Flags 2-1 fav. 9 ran. 3l, 19l. G Hubbard. Tote: £8.40; £2.30, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £14.20. Trio: £79.90. CSF: £48.69. Tricast: £457.08.

3.40 (3m 1f ch) 1, Ramallah (M A Fitzgerald, 11-4 fav); 2, Lay It Off (3-1); 3, Mammy's Choice (4-1). 7 ran. 9l, 28l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £2.40. DF: £14.60. CSF: £11.38.

4.10 (2m hdle) 1, Ardrom (R Garritty, 7-1); 2, Reach The Clouds (4-1 fav); 3, Daughter In Law (12-1). 15 ran. 7l, 1l. P Webber. Tote: £7.30; £1.80, £1.70, £8.40. DF: £32.30. Trio: £172.00. CSF: £39.32. Tricast: £336.80.

4.40 (2m 6f ch) 1, Lochnagrain (Mr R Wakley, 7-2); 2, Avostar (9-4 fav); 3, Reign Dance (11-4). 9 ran. 10l, 5l. T Forster. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £1.40, £1.10. DF: £4.40. Trio: £3.20. CSF: £12.35.

5.10 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Top Note (P Hide, 6-4 fav); 2, Bold Leap (4-1); 3, Miner's Bill (9-1). 12 ran. NR: Connel's Croft, Monaco, Pole Ridge. Thunderbird 26l, 6l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £5.70. CSF: £7.87.

Placepot: £337.40. Quadpot: £27.50.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.30 Galapino
2.05 Principality
2.35 Winsome George
3.10 SHARP HAT (nap)
3.40 Russian Music
4.10 Prolix
4.40 Mutabassir

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 WESTSIDE FLYER (nap). 2.35 Di Matteo. 3.10 Passion For Life.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.30 SPRING APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,486: 1m 4f) (22 runners)

101 (20) 60510-4 TOTEM DANCER 15 (D,G) (Diamond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 5-9-12 ... D Griffiths 90
102 (10) /30230- MYSTIC RIDGE 584 (P Byrne) B Curley 4-9-11 ... G Faulkner (3) 80
103 (6) 06153-4 OPERA BUFF 7 (D,F,S) (D Watson) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-11 ... J Wilkinson (5) 94
104 (12) /2004-1 RUSSIAN RULER 17 (D) (A Morton) A Jarvis 4-9-9 ... D Sweeney [108]
105 (22) 50-5542 KOMREYEV DANCER 17 (F,G) (D Gallagher) A Bailey 6-9-8 ... J Bosley (7) 80
106 (21) 55346-0 MASTER BEVELED 26J (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 8-9-8 ... A McCarthy (3) 95
107 (1) 0202-30 GALAPINO 51 (CD,F) (Glenside Pinrs Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-7 ... R Mullen (3) 102
108 (7) -536508 PROTOCOL 12 (F) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 4-9-7 ... C Teague 96
109 (11) /00466- MARATHON MAID 189 (G) (J Stephenson Ltd) R Fahey 4-9-4 ... R Winston (5) 106
110 (9) 26-2522 BLOOMING AMAZING 27 (BF,F) (C & D Stephenson Ltd) J Eyre 4-9-4 ... C Lowther 90
111 (17) 000-033 POKER SCHOOL 17 (G) (D Westley) N Callaghan 4-9-3 ... P M Quinn (7) 88
112 (5) 11-1221 PRIVATE DESPATCH 31 (D,S) (F Adams) M Quinn 3-9-1 ... P P Murphy 80
113 (19) 515550- SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 161 (D,F,G,S) (Alba Syed) D Bader 7-8-13 ... Darren Moffatt 99
114 (8) 150640- FAIRY KNIGHT 213 (D,F,G,S) (P & S Lever Pinrs) R Hannon 6-8-13 ... P Fitzsimons (7) 98
115 (3) 040/240 LANCER 9 (F) (Flyon Partnership) J Pearce 6-8-10 ... Deborah Carmody (7) 77
116 (2) 20-2231 FIJUAL 15 (D,F) (D Leech) J Pearce 5-8-10 ... A Polli (3) 90
117 (4) 008/00/ HAZAAF 14J (D,F) (J D Eggleton) M Kettle 9-8-10 ... P Dobbs (5) –
118 (18) 455-456 MARDREW 45 (T Connors) John Berry 4-8-9 ... R Havlin 90
119 (14) 4605-04 PRIVATE AUDIENCE 28 (J Davies) W Muir 5-8-5 ... A Nicholls (5) 90
120 (15) /32120- KINTAVI 292 (F,S) (S Taberner) T Donnelly 8-8-2 ... P Bradley (5) 95
121 (13) 04600-5 COBLE 13J (B) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 4-7-10 ... P Fessey 80
122 (16) SPP-600 SEA GOD 7J (McCans Ltd) M Chapman 7-7-10 ... D Williams (5) 65

Long handicap: Coble 7-9, Sea God 7-0.

BETTING: 9-2 Master Beveled, 8-1 Opera Buff, Galapino, 10-1 Marathon Maid, 12-1 Totem Dancer, Mystic Ridge, Komreyev Dancer, Blooming Amazing, Fijual, 14-1 others

1997: GALAPINO 4-7-11 R Mullen (13-2 jt-fav) Miss G Kelleway 24 ran

2.05 BROCKLESBY CONDITIONS STAKES C4
(2-Y-O: £5,598: 5f) (17 runners)

201 (8) AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING (Bodfari Stud Ltd) M W Easterby 8-11 ... T Lucas –
202 (4) BANNINGHAM BREEZE (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-11 ... Martin Dwyer –
203 (6) EXECUTIVE EVENT (T Rowley) P Haslam 8-11 ... J Weaver –
204 (14) FRANCO MINA (Mr & Mrs Gary Pinchen) M Channon 8-11 ... A Mackay –
205 (12) GOLDEN REEF (M Johnson) R Hollinshead 8-11 ... A McCarthy (5) –
206 (17) HADEQA (V) (Mon Bataong Badly) P Evans 8-11 ... J F Egan –
207 (7) KING FOLEY (Foley Steelstock) W G M Turner 8-11 ... D McGaffin (7) –
208 (15) PIPS MAGIC (F Brady) J Goldie 8-11 ... A Culhane –
209 (16) PRINCIPALITY (Mrs J Maguier) J Berry 8-11 ... K Darley –
210 (9) SWAFFHAM (P Savill) M W Easterby 8-11 ... J Fortune –
211 (3) TAZ MANIA (Mrs P Barratt) M Meade 8-11 ... J Reid –
212 (5) TOUCH UP (Sheet & Roll Convertors Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 8-11 ... K Fallon –
213 (2) CALICO LADY (Drakemyre Racing) W Kemp 8-6 ... J Quinn –
214 (10) CHARLENE LACY (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-6 ... D Sweeney (3) –
215 (11) DAMALIS (Liam Ferguson) E Alston 8-6 ... C Lowther (3) –
216 (1) MIDRUSH (J Pickard) J Wainwright 8-6 ... G Parkin –
217 (13) WESTSIDE FLYER (K Hudson) A Kelleway 8-6 ... M Roberts –

BETTING: 9-2 Franco Mina, 5-1 King Foley, 6-1 Principality, 7-1 Touch Up, 8-1 Hadeqa, 10-1 Taz Mania, 12-1 Swaffham, Damalis, 14-1 others

1997: BLUERIDGE DANCER 8-11 M Tebbutt (7-1) B Meehan 15 ran

2.35 BACK A WINNER BY TRAIN HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £4,013: 1m 2f 60yd) (15 runners)

301 (5) 04013-1 NIGHT VIGIL 40 (D) (S Ali) B Hills 9-7 ... M Hills 104
302 (12) 0612-11 BAWSIAN 57 (G) (D Scott) J Eyre 9-3 ... K Fallon [127]
303 (13) 081- LUCKY DOUBLE 176 (G) (M Schall) R Hannon 9-3 ... R Hughes 98
304 (1) 420- QUINTUS 225 (Sir George Meyrick) P Cole 9-2 ... T Quinn 90
305 (9) 282- TUMBLEWEED HERO 196 (Third Tumbleweed Pinrs) B Meehan 9-2 ... W R Swinburn 77
306 (11) 143600- WINSOME GEORGE 153 (G) (C Barber-Lomax) C Fairhurst 8-10 ... N Kennedy 112
307 (10) 302-2 DI MATTEO 26 (C Gordon-Watson) B Hanbury 8-9 ... W Ryan 108
308 (2) 3245-22 NARROGIN 30 (BF) (J Rogers-Coltman) M Channon 8-9 ... A Mackay 90
309 (7) 003621- SCENE 138 (C,S) (P Dixon) M Meade 8-6 ... J Reid 94
310 (4) 005-51 PIPE MUSIC 31 (Lord Scarsdale) P Haslam 8-5 ... L Charnock 100
311 (15) 00020- ZURYAF 138 (B) (Abbott Racing Ltd) B Meehan 8-3 ... C Rutter 90
312 (6) 0000- PETANE 160 (A Robinson) J Arnold 8-1 ... Martin Dwyer 80
313 (8) 0050- PRODIGAL SON 189 (R Morris Jr) R Williams 8-0 ... D Biggs 77
314 (3) 50200-2 COUNSEL 26 (Miss N Thesiger) K Burke 7-13 ... A McCarthy (5) 98
315 (14) 000-121 DANZINO 26 (V,D) (G Horsford) Mrs N Macauley 7-12 ... J Quinn 85

BETTING: 9-2 Night Vigil, 6-1 Bawsian, 8-1 Tumbleweed Hero, Danzino, 10-1 Lucky Double, Quintus, 12-1 others.

1997: MIRACLE KID 8-10 L Dettori (9-2) J Gosden 16 ran

FORM FOCUS: Night Vigil beat Frankie Ferrari 3l in 4-runner 3yo handicap at Lingfield (1m 2l, AW). Bawsian beat Bramston Barry 8l in 6-runner 3yo handicap at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW). Lucky Double beat Gunzetts neck in 20-runner 2yo maiden stakes at Salisbury (6f 212yd, good). Quintus 12l 8th of 13 to Sovet Bureau in 2yo novice stakes at Salisbury (6f 212yd, good to firm). Tumbleweed Hero ¾l 2nd of 14 to Smart Squall in 2yo maiden stakes at Chepstow (7f 16yd, good). Di Matteo 1½l 2nd of 9 to Libra Star in 3yo maiden auction stakes at Lingfield (1m, AW). Narrogin 11l 2nd of 5 to Diamond Flame in maiden stakes at Lingfield (1m 2l, slow). Scene beat Alconleigh ¾l in 22-runner 2yo handicap at Doncaster (7f, good to soft) with Zuryaf (4lb better off) 6¾l 8th. Pipe Music beat Nuit D'Or neck in 8-runner 3yo maiden handicap at Southwell (1m, slow). Danzino beat Counsel (5lb worse off) 2½l in 10-runner 3yo handicap at Lingfield (1m 2l, slow)

DI MATTEO has a stout pedigree on the dam's side and is taken to score

3.10 TOTE / 49S HANDICAP [SHOWCASE RACE] C4
(£21,495: 5f) (18 runners)

401 (6) 405100- PROUD NATIVE 187 (D,F,G) (P Savill) D Nicholls 4-10-0 ... Alex Greaves 106
402 (10) /152/68 FIRE DOME 29 (C,D,G,S) (J Ranson) D Nicholls 6-9-12 ... Dean McKeown 80
403 (13) 051001- RUDI'S PET 152 (CD,G,S) (J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-11 ... J Fortune 104
404 (4) 230610- DANCETHENIGHTAWAY 161 (D,F,S) (G Bosley) B Meehan 4-9-9 ... J Reid 105
405 (18) 406200- SHARP HAT 179 (C,F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hannon 4-9-7 ... Dane O'Neill [115]
406 (16) 000405- PASSION FOR LIFE 179 (D,F,G) (Canisbay B'stock Ltd) W Jarvis 5-9-4 ... K Fallon 114
407 (5) 12230-0 ANSELLMAN 12 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Ansells of Watford) J Berry 8-9-2 ... C Lowther (3) 100
408 (15) 100402- THE GAY FOX 161 (D,F,S) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 4-9-1 ... T Quinn 103
409 (9) 423580- BANNINGHAM BLADE 166 (D,F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 3-9-1 ... Martin Dwyer 80
410 (14) 000100- SPENDER 152 (D,F,G) (Entrepreneurs) P Harris 9-8-9 ... G Duffield 99
411 (11) 26120-0 PURE COINCIDENCE 12 (D,F) (Mrs A Muinos) G Lewis 3-8-9 ... M Hills 87
412 (12) 01112-2 STATE OF CAUTION 12 (V) (J Freiwan) D Shaw 5-8-8 ... J Fanning 90
413 (8) 051060- LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 152 (CD,F,G,S) (Elite RC) M Heaton-Ellis 10-8-7 ... M Roberts 109
414 (17) d40600- CAUDA EQUINA 213 (D,F,G,S) (M Foy) M Channon 4-8-4 ... A Mackay 87
415 (7) 011021- AFAAN 86 (B,D,F,G,S) (E Gray) R Marvin 5-8-3 ... S Righton (7) 100
416 (2) 00-2024 GADGE 9 (F,G,S) (J Wilcox) A Bailey 7-8-3 ... D Wright 98
417 (1) 000-411 DEPRECIATE 9 (D,G) (I Armitage) T Barron 5-7-12 (6ex) ... L Charnock 87
418 (3) 0000-00 SWYNFORD DREAM 29 (D,F,G) (Qualitair Ltd) J Hetherton 5-7-10 ... J Lowe 76

Long handicap: Swynford Dream 7-7

BETTING: 11-2 Rudi's Pet, 6-1 State Of Caution, 8-1 Dancethenightaway, Sharp Hat, The Gay Fox, 10-1 Depreciate, 12-1 Passion For Life, Banningham Blade, Lord High Admiral, 14-1 others.

1997: BRUTAL FANTASY 3-8-10 R Lappin (13-2) J Eyre 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Fire Dome 4½l 6th of 8 to Double-O in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, Aw, fibresand) with Swynford Dream (2lb worse off) 16l last. Rudi's Pet beat Perryston View 2½l in 22-runner handicap at Doncaster (5f, good) with Spender (12lb better off) 7¼l 13th, Ansellman (9lb better off) 13l 20th and Lord High Admiral (14lb better off) 17l last. Sharp Hat 4¼l 7th of 11 to Tedburrow in handicap at Ascot (5f, good to firm). The Gay Fox short head 2nd of 18 to The Puzzler in handicap at Newmarket (5f, good to soft) with Ansellman (1lb worse off) neck 3rd and Dancethenightaway (2lb worse off) 6½l 16th. State Of Caution 1l 2nd of 12 to Cretan Gift in handicap at Wolverhampton (5f, AW) with Ansellman (28lb worse off) 8½l 8th and Pure Coincidence (19lb worse off) 15l 11th. Afaan beat Nobalino 2l in 16-runner apprentice handicap at Southwell (5f, AW) with Depreciate (7lb better off) 6¼l 7th. Gadge 4¾l 4th of 9 to Time Of Night in stakes at Southwell (7f, Aw, fibresand). Depreciate beat Hiltons Executive 2l in 10-runner handicap at Southwell (5f, AW)

RUDI'S PET can land this hot contest on his first start for the Ramsdens

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

3.40 DONCASTER MILE [SHOWCASE RACE] C4
(Listed race: £11,443. 1m rnd) (8 runners)

501 (2) 104120- HIDDEN MEADOW 172 (D,G) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 4-9-1 ... T Quinn [127]
502 (5) 45/130- HORNBEAM 253 (S) (K Payne) J Jenkins 4-8-12 ... R Cochrane 125
503 (4) 31/460- IN COMMAND 196 (F,G) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 4-8-12 ... M Hills 112
504 (1) 251020- MIDYAN CALL 159 (F) (L Gaucci) M Bell 4-8-12 ... J Reid 108
505 (8) 100505- PRINCE OF MY HEART 218 (D,G,S) (G Hicks) D Haydn Jones 5-8-12 ... J Weaver 117
506 (3) 331404- RUSSIAN MUSIC 110 (CD,F) (7th Heaven Pinrs) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-12 ... K Fallon 118
507 (7) /360-45 SILVERING 22 (D,G,S) (Platinum Synd Ltd) R Cowell 6-8-12 ... W R Swinburn 100
508 (6) 12/4-5 WITCHING HOUR 23 (S) (Greenbay Stables Ltd) Mrs J Cecil 4-8-7 ... W Ryan 99

BETTING: 7-4 Hidden Meadow, 9-4 In Command, 7-1 Russian Music, 8-1 Prince Of My Heart, 10-1 others.

1997: CANYON CREEK 4-8-12 L Dettori (7-2) J Gosden 6 ran

FORM FOCUS: Hidden Meadow 5¼l 5th of 9 to Wizard King in group 3 stakes at Tipperary (7f, good to firm). In Command 4½l 7th of 8 to Almushtarak in group 3 stakes at Doncaster (1m, good to firm). Russian Music 7½l 4th of 7 to Farmost in stakes (listed) at Wolverhampton (1m 1f 79yd, AW)

HIDDEN MEADOW is the class act and can shrug off his group three penalty

4.10 CHRIS LIESACK 40TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,688: 1m str) (10 runners)

601 (7) 0- CODED MESSAGE 159 (P Dean) J Glover 9-0 ... S D Williams 60
602 (8) DEEP DIVE (W Farish III) P Cole 9-0 ... T Quinn –
603 (3) 02023- FREE OPTION 142 (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0 ... W Ryan 99
604 (2) 0- INCEPTA 189 (A Morton) B Hills 9-0 ... J D Smith (3) –
605 (6) KHALED (Hamad Al-Mutawa) K Mahdi 9-0 ... R Cochrane –
606 (10) 30045-0 LAKELAND PRIDE 6 (D Maloney) D Nicholls 9-0 ... Alex Greaves 79
607 (4) 222- PROLIX 179 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills [120]
608 (1) 60- TIGULLIO 138 (E Landi) C Wall 9-0 ... S Sanders 60
609 (5) 0- AMEENA 198 (R Meredith) R Fahey 8-9 ... K Darley 70
610 (9) 65- CHASETOWN CAILIN 281 (Chasetown Civil Eng) R Hollinshead 8-9 ... D Hayden (7) 65

BETTING: 1-4 Prolix, 6-1 Deep Dive, 10-1 Free Option, 25-1 Incepta, Ameena, 33-1 Coded Message, 50-1 others

1997: FLY TO THE STARS 9-0 J Weaver (5-6 fav) M Johnston 8 ran

4.40 FAUCETS EQUIPMENT LADIES HANDICAP
(£2,416: 1m 2l 60yd) (17 runners)

1 (17) 604-400 BREAK THE RULES 37J (CD,F,G,S) (J Wilman) D Nicholls 6-11-7 ... C Williams (5) 74
2 (11) 200000- NO CLICHES 157 (C,F) (M Leatham) D Nicholls 5-10-11 ... S Bosley 71
3 (16) 040000- MARADI 21J (Mrs B Curley) B Curley 4-10-7 ... A Stringer (5) 69
4 (14) 43-5330 FATHER DAN 56 (D,F) (Miss G Kelleway) Miss G Kelleway 9-10-7 ... W Southcombe (7) 65
5 (10) 020350- CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 188J (F,G) (Mrs H Noonan) B Cambidge 10-10-5 ... H Noonan (5) 64
6 (5) 0000-60 WHO'S THAT MAN 30 (D,F) (T Duffy) S C Williams 4-10-4 ... A Perrett 70
7 (12) 000/15- VANADIUM ORE 85J (D,F) (E Garth Ormond) W McKeown 5-10-3 ... P Robson 80
8 (8) /521436 AJDAR 15 (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 7-10-2 ... M Morris (5) 65
9 (15) 6-45636 NOSEY NATIVE 23 (F,S) (Mrs L Pearce) J Pearce 5-10-2 ... L Pearce 71
10 (6) 60060- MR MONTAGUE 113J (C I P Racing) T Donnelly 6-10-1 ... J Wormall (5) 65
11 (2) 0-00315 PALISANDER 33 (D) (A Foustok) P Howling 4-10-1 ... I Foustok (5) 70
12 (13) 500-346 RAINDEER QUEST 22 (F,G) (Whitestonecliffe Pinrs) J Eyre 6-9-12 ... D Allman (7) 73
13 (3) 30-3222 DR EDGAR 9 (V,D,F,G) (A Watson) J Eyre 6-9-12 ... Diana Jones 77
14 (4) 000/0-1 THE REAL MCCOY 55 (Miss E Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-10 ... E Ramsden [85]
15 (1) 5-204 MUTABASSIR 49 (D Bloor) G L Moore 4-9-9 ... J Moore (3) 77
16 (9) -056230 AQUAVITA 23 (E Houghton) J S Moore 4-9-4 ... S Moore (5) 65
17 (7) 0-64300 DOWN THE YARD 3 (F) (G Whiting) M Chapman 5-9-3 ... E Folkes (7) 60

Long handicap: Down The Yard 8-5

BETTING: 9-2 The Real Mccoy, 6-1 Dr Edgar, 8-1 Break The Rules, Father Dan, 10-1 Vanadium Ore, 12-1 others

1997: BREAK THE RULES 5-11-2 Amanda Perrett (7-2 fav) M Pipe 20 ran

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

2.25 Eager Beaver. 2.55 Amber Spark. 3.30 Croagh Patrick. 4.00 Muhtadi. 4.30 Amazon Lily. 5.05 Securon Gale.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.25 LEWES AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,059: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 2231 DISTANT STORM 8 (B,S) B Llewellyn 5-12-1 (7ex) ... J L Llewellyn (5)
2 02P6 BEND SABLE 21 (F,G,S) R Stronge 8-11-11 ... S Stronge (7)
3 032- MR GENEALOGY 23F (B,C,G,S) T McGovern 8-10-12 ... R B Ross (7)
4 4131 MARYJO 10 (CD,G) G L Moore 9-10-12 (7ex) ... I Mongan (7)
5 5322 ILLUMINATE 10 (BF) D O'Brien 5-10-11 ... R Walley (3)
6 0/51 SEIZE THE DAY 8 (G) M Coombe 10-10-7 (7ex) ... Miss M Coombe (7)
7 /35/ CHAMPAGNE GOLD 244F J McConnochie 11-10-4 ... M W Mancini (7)
8 -0P5 EAGER BEAVER 15 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-0 ... A Holdsworth (7)
9 /50- NOTED STRAIN 303 R Baker 10-10-0 ... Miss K Di Marte (7)
10 5-F0 OLD GOLD N TAN 24 J R Poulton 5-10-0 ... R Forristal (7)
11 0550 BAYLORD PRINCE 8 (C,F,S) Mrs J Ewer 10-10-0 ... Miss C Dyson (7)
12 0PP5 RUSSIAN RIVER 10 J Bridger 6-10-0 ... Miss R Illman (7)

3-1 Illuminate, 4-1 MaryJo, 5-1 Distant Storm, 6-1 Seize The Day, 8-1 others.

2.55 PHILIP HALL MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,534: 2m 5f) (7)

1 430P ANOTHER DEADLY 10 (S) T Casey 11-11-11 ... J R Kavanagh
2 4002 AMBER SPARK 10 (S) D Gandolfo 8-11-10 ... M A Fitzgerald
3 U42F ANOTHER COURSE 10 (S) C Mann 10-10-10 ... Miss G Barraclough
4 -32P TROJAN CALL 10 (CD,F,G) S Woodman 11-10-9 ... L Aspell (3)
5 4U01 FIRST INSTANCE 5 (G) D Grissell 8-10-6 ... P Henley (3)
6 6203 NORTHERN OPTIMIST 31 (F,G) B Llewellyn 10-10-4 ... Miss E Jones
7 0005 CHALLENGER ROW 5 (V,S) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0 ... G Supple (5)

3-1 Another Course, 4-1 First Instance, Amber Spark, 5-1 Trojan Call, 6-1 others.

3.30 MARCH SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,632: 2m 1f) (11)

1 F334 DERISBAY 10 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Bridger 10-12-0 ... M Batchelor (7)
2 PSFP WHISTLING BUCK 17 (C,S) B Llewellyn 10-11-9 ... Mr J L Llewellyn
3 P46- OXFORD QUILL 346 (S) T D Mccarthy 11-11-7 ... Mr R Wakley (3)
4 0-07 ANNABEL'S BABY 88 (D,G,S) D Wintle 9-11-2 ... W Marston
5 0-00 RUTH'S GAMBLE 29 (V,F,G) Mrs L Jewell 10-11-1 ... Mr E Byrne (7)
6 066F TARAKHEL 10 N Smith 5-10-13 ... M Sharratt
7 F0P- MY NAD KNOWS 369 J C Poulton 5-10-13 ... J Goldstein (7)
8 6251 MEGA TID 21 (S) J R Poulton 6-10-13 ... J Magee (3)
9 0030 CROAGH PATRICK 8 J Fox 6-10-11 ... M A Fitzgerald
10 000P DO BE WARE 21 (B,CD,F,S) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-10-4 ... L Harvey
11 5060 PETROS GEM 24 M Bolton 5-10-3 ... L Aspell (3)

9-4 Mega Tid, 4-1 Derisbay, 9-2 Annabel's Baby, 6-1 Ruth's Gamble, Croagh Patrick, 12-1 Oxford Quill, 16-1 Whistling Buck, 25-1 others

4.00 FOX HILL NOVICES CHASE (£2,956: 2m) (3)

1 325P AUGUST TWELFTH 8 (G,S) D O'Brien 10-11-2 ... M Batchelor (7)
2 /UP0 JOE'S BIRTHDAY 12 P R Webber 8-11-2 ... P Henley (3)
3 6-00 MUHTADI 33 (D,S) Miss H Knight 5-10-8 ... M A Fitzgerald

4-5 Muhtadi, 6-5 August Twelfth, 14-1 Joe's Birthday

4.30 HAILSHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£2,467: 3m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 3P64 CREDON 31 (CD,F,G,S) S Woodman 10-12-0 ... L Aspell (3)
2 422P AMAZON LILY 5 (G) R Rowe 11-11-3 ... P Hide
3 2P25 PEARL'S CHOICE 47 J McConnochie 10-10-9 ... Mr R Wakley (3)
4 P561 BALLYGRIFFIN LAD 19 (G) T McGovern 9-10-3 ... M A Fitzgerald
5 4024 SHAMARPHIL 73 (F,S) C Mann 12-10-2 ... Miss G Barraclough
6 3UU3 BENBULBIN 2 (V) J Mullins 8-10-0 ... A Bates (5)
7 0P3P JOKER JACK 71 (F,S) R Dean 13-10-0 ... J Goldstein (7)

7-2 Ballygriffin Lad, 4-1 Amazon Lily, Pearl's Choice, 9-2 Shamarphil, 5-1 Benbulbin, 6-1 Credon, 25-1 Joker Jack

5.05 PEASE POTTAGE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,529: 2m 4f) (11)

1 01 NOT REALLY 18 (S) Lady E Mays-Smith 7-11-8 ... Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
2 060 BALLYBAY 24 R Alner 5-11-2 ... A Bates (5)
3 00- EXPRESS AGAIN 378 R Johnson Houghton 6-11-2 ... W Walsh (7)
4 0-2P FOUNTAIN BID 53P R Dean 6-11-2 ... J Goldstein (7)
5 0-20 IN THE VAN 61 Mrs D Haine 5-11-2 ... D Gallagher
6 405 MULDOVA 8 D Grissell 5-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh
7 3658 PROCEED 29 J Gifford 6-11-2 ... P Hide
8 0- SECURON GALE 383 N Henderson 6-11-2 ... M A Fitzgerald
9 050 CLAPPING 24 Miss A M Newton-Smith 7-10-11 ... J K McCarthy (7)
10 0 KILORAN BAY 38 R Rowe 7-10-11 ... L Aspell (3)
11 00 MOLLY DREAMER 24 L A Dace 6-10-11 ... P Henley (3)

8-4 Not Really, 9-2 Securon Gale, 5-1 Proceed, 6-1 In The Van, 10-1 Muldova, 12-1 Kiloran Bay, 20-1 Express Again, 25-1 others

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.15 Loveyoumillions. 2.45 Bengers Moor. 3.20 Aller Moor. 3.50 Shirley Venture. 4.20 Charliesmedarlin. 4.50 Almond Rock. 5.20 Kinsford Rose.

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.50 SUPERMICK.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Charliesmedarlin.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,653: 2m) (18 runners)

1 ACCESS ADVENTURER 182F R Frost 7-11-2 ... J Frost –
2 -3P4 BLURRED 33 (BF) M Tompkins 5-11-2 ... R Thornton 108
3 P0 BUZZARDS BELLBUOY 107 R Smith 9-11-2 ... G Hogan –
4 00 GREY TROOPER 20 G Balding 5-11-2 ... B Fenton –
5 C66 GUMAIR 14 A Dunn 5-11-2 ... S McNeill 98
6 0- LOVEYOUMILLIONS 355F M Pipe 6-11-2 ... A P McCoy –
7 P0F4 PRINCE DE BERRY 8 G Ham 7-11-2 ... P Holley –
8 000 RUSTIC REVELRY 34 R York 5-11-2 ... Mr P York –
9 TASSILI 248F J Portman 5-11-2 ... C Maude –
10 -000 ZABARI 40 G Thorner 5-11-2 ... B Powell 104
11 /P-P BARBRALLEN 6 Mrs L Jewell 6-10-11 ... D Leahy –
12 0/FP ORCHARD LADY 21 N Mitchell 8-10-11 ... Mrs A Davis –
13 0 SOLDIER'S SONG 14 R Hodges 5-10-11 ... J Harris (7) –
14 HERE'S TO HOWIE 156F M R Bosley 4-10-8 ... A Thornton –
15 P4 KARABURAN 10 R Phillips 4-10-8 ... S Curran –
16 P0 LUDO 24 C Weedon 4-10-8 ... M Richards –
17 F3 NAZIR 14 P Hobbs 4-10-8 ... R Dunwoody [128]
18 236 WALK ON BY 69 J King 4-10-8 ... R Guest 116

5-2 Blurred, 3-1 Nazir, 4-1 Walk On By, 6-1 Loveyoumillions, 10-1 Prince De Berry, 14-1 Karaburan, 20-1 Zabari, Here's To Howie, 25-1 others

2.45 DELOITTE NOVICES CHASE (£3,110. 2m 5f) (7)

1 2211 BENGERS MOOR 14 (CD,G,S) P Nicholls 7-12-3 ... Mr J Tizzard (5) [117]
2 1246 HILLHEAD 128 (F) B Buckler 9-11-10 ... B Powell 112
3 0PPP BALLYMICHAEL 13 G Balding 6-11-3 ... B Clifford –
4 3P4F DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT 27 A Chamberlain 9-11-3 ... T Dascombe 100
5 P/PU JUNGLE KING 14 A J Wilson 9-11-3 ... G Hogan –
6 -P35 YOUBETTERBELIEVEIT 20 (F,G) C Brooks 9-11-3 ... G Bradley 105
7 2-6U SPRING HEBE 14 (S) B Ryall 8-10-12 ... T J Murphy –

4-6 Bengers Moor, 7-2 Youbetterbelieveit, 13-2 Spring Hebe, 10-1 others.

3.20 COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,384: 3m 1f 110yd) (3)

1 1221 ALLER MOOR 56 (CD,F,G,S) R Alner 7-12-0 ... A Thornton 118
2 3338 DROMHANA 13 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-11-7 ... T J Murphy [120]
3 3434 KOO'S PROMISE 17 (C,G) C Popham 7-10-6 ... Mr O McPhail (5) 107

8-15 Aller Moor, 7-2 Dromhana, 4-1 Koo's Promise.

3.50 GREENSLADE TAYLOR HUNT MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,666. 2m 6f) (19)

1 0P41 LOVELARK 16 (S) R Brotherton 9-11-6 ... M Griffiths (7) 87
2 041 SHIRLEY VENTURE 21 (G) Ms V Williams 5-11-6 ... N Williamson [116]
3 PPP6 COLD FEET 14 C Mitchell 7-11-0 ... G Upton 80
4 04PP CURTIS THE SECOND 16 C Barwell 5-11-0 ... B Fenton 70
5 PUPP DUNNICKS COUNTRY 21 (B) F Tucker 8-11-0 ... S Burrough –
6 6405 DUNRAVEN LADY 79 D Braco 6-11-0 ... Miss P Jones 78
7 000 FLYING ARTIST 70 S Knight 6-11-0 ... Mr M Frith (7) 83
8 -P00 INNER SNU 14 (F) N Mitchell 9-11-0 ... Sophie Mitchell (3) 73
9 2-04 LUCY GLITTERS 14 T Forster 6-11-0 ... R Johnson 100
10 600 MADAM MATCH 28 Mrs H Mobley 7-11-0 ... Mr A Tate (7) 60
11 2-04 MISCHIEF STAR 21 F Nicholls 5-11-0 ... T J Murphy 104
12 0 NIGHT-MARE 44 L Wells 5-11-0 ... G Hogan –
13 2- SOLAZZI 384 R Frost 6-11-0 ... D Burrows (5) –
14 6205 SONG OF KENDA 35 (B) B Millman 6-11-0 ... DOUBTFUL –
15 0434 TAWNY WARBLER 86 Mrs P Robeson 6-11-0 ... M Richards 90
16 0U0/ TRELAWNEYS DREAM 698 N Hawke 8-11-0 ... A Thornton –
17 P5P4 UP THE TEMPO 16 P Farrell 9-11-0 ... R Greene 76
18 BPP VALLIS VALE 47 J King 8-11-0 ... R Guest –
19 -4P2 WIN A HAND 14 B Ryall 8-11-0 ... T Dascombe –

9-4 Shirley Venture, 7-2 Lucy Glitters, Mischief Star, Solazzi, 10-1 others.

4.20 STEWART TORY MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,116: 2m 5f) (13)

1 1P-1 ABIT MORE BUSINESS 61P (F,G) R Barber 7-12-0 ... J Tizzard (5) –
2 3-PB BOLD IMP 19P (F) Miss S Waugh 13-12-0 ... J Moxse (7) –
3 P-11 BROOK A LIGHT 39P (F) Ms O Cole 7-12-0 ... N Harris (7) –
4 -PP1 CHARLIESMEDARLIN 32P (G) M Wellings 7-12-0 ... R Burton (7) –
5 -112 CHISM 14 (F,G) Miss L Alner 7-12-0 ... J D Moore (7) [106]
6 -204 DAD'S PIPE 33P (G) Mrs P Smith 8-12-0 ... T E G Smith (7) –
7 0/U4 GIORDANO 28 (S) A Deakin 8-12-0 ... F Hutsby (7) 74
8 4R64 LAVALIGHT 11P (F) J Dufosee 11-12-0 ... Miss A Goschen (7) 60
9 P6- RAKI CRAZY 312 U Carter 7-12-0 ... D McPhail (5) –
10 P-PS ROMAN ROMANY 40P (F) G Smyly 9-12-0 ... Lt Rimell (5) –
11 -421 SAMULE 11P (G,S) Mrs A Harding 6-12-0 ... G Saunt (7) –
12 6BU- MAJIC BELLE 306P (B) Mrs B Horton 10-11-9 ... P Flynn (7) 64
13 2212 RYME AND RUN 12P (S) L Blackford 12-11-3 ... Miss L Blackford (7) 60

4-1 Chism, 5-1 Abit More Business, Samule, 6-1 Brook A Light, 10-1 others.

4.50 QUANTOCK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,868: 2m) (8)

1 FF22 MRS EM 10 (BF,CD,F,S) P Nicholls 6-11-10 ... T J Murphy 120
2 4402 SECRET SERVICE 14 (D,G,S) C Barwell 6-11-10 ... B Fenton 124
3 /4F6 STATAJACK 33 (CD,F,G) D Elsworth 10-11-5 ... Mr N Moran (7) 122
4 1431 SUPERMICK 28 (CD,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-5 ... A P McCoy [145]
5 330 ALMOND ROCK 43 J Fanshawe 6-11-4 ... R Thornton 117
6 5050 ORSWELLTHATENSWELL 21 (F) P Hobbs 7-10-7 ... R Dunwoody 100
7 0114 GLOWING PATH 8 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-10-7 ... T Dascombe 104
8 354 BOLD ORIENTAL 35 (B) C Brooks 4-10-3 ... S McNeill 99

5-2 Supermick, 7-2 Mrs Em, 5-1 Secret Service, 6-1 Glowing Path, 10-1 others.

5.20 LEVY BOARD N H FLAT RACE (£1,455: 2m) (18)

1 1 KINSFORD ROSE 42 (CD,G) M Pipe 5-11-6 ... A P McCoy –
2 BLACK OAK R Pocock 5-11-4 ... Mr R Widger (7) –
3 6 ELVIS 12 L Wells 5-11-4 ... R Dunwoody –
4 LORD BUSTER 6 Balding 5-11-4 ... S Fox –
5 0 ROYAL SPARK 117 P Hobbs 6-11-4 ... G Tormey –
6 6 SLEIGHT OF HAND 34 J King 5-11-4 ... M Richards –
7 4 TAXBUSTER 26 N Thomson 6-11-4 ... S Burrough –
8 WINGS OF FIRE N Mitchell 6-11-4 ... Mr N R Mitchell –
9 10 C'EST MOI LAUREL 47 (D,S) Ms V Williams 4-11-3 ... N Williamson –
10 1 PERFECT FELLOW 17 (S) M J Weeden 4-11-3 ... G Shenkin (7) –
11 0 MARY GALE 20 (BF) M Pipe 5-10-13 ... J Lower –
12 0 VIKING ART 36 R York 5-10-13 ... Mr P York –
13 PONTYPOOL R Peacock 4-10-10 ... C Webb (3) –
14 RIVERSMEET L Cottrell 4-10-10 ... Mr L Jefford –
15 P RO-JO 61 A Chamberlain 4-10-10 ... Clare Thorner (7) –
16 SUPER ROOSTER R Hodges 4-10-10 ... T Dascombe –
17 0 LEGAL PETITION 34 L Carey 4-10-5 ... D Salter (3) –
18 0 PUP'S PET 44 J Mullins 4-10-5 ... R Thornton –

2-1 Kinsford Rose, 7-2 Perfect Fellow, 4-1 C'Est Moi Laurel, 10-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 2.05 Hadeqa. Wincanton: 3.50 Dunnicks Country, Song Of Kenda, 4.50 Bold Oriental

COURSE SPECIALISTS

DONCASTER: Trainers: W G M Turner, 3 winners from 15 runners, 20.0%; Miss G Kelleway, 7 from 38, 18.4%; B Hills, 31 from 178, 17.4%; P Cole, 10 from 59, 16.9%; Mrs J Cecil, 5 from 33, 15.2%; I Balding, 10 from 71, 14.1%. Jockeys: W R Swinburn, 13 winners from 71 rides, 18.3%; M Hills, 28 from 156, 17.9%; K Fallon, 29 from 210, 13.8%; C Lowther, 4 from 29, 13.8%; W Ryan, 15 from 109, 13.8%; K Darley, 31 from 239, 13.0%.

PLUMPTON: Trainers: Miss H Knight, 9 winners from 21 runners, 42.9%; N Henderson, 7 from 18, 38.9%; Mrs D Haine, 4 from 14, 28.6%; C Mann, 4 from 15, 26.7%; G L Moore, 8 from 50, 16.0%; R Alner, 8 from 51, 15.7%. Jockeys: M A Fitzgerald, 14 winners from 67 rides, 20.9%; J Kavanagh, 12 from 63, 19.0%; W Marston, 5 from 40, 12.5%; M Batchelor, 4 from 34, 11.8%; L Aspell, 4 from 36, 11.1%; P Hide, 4 from 38, 10.5%.

WINCANTON: Trainers: M Pipe, 37 winners from 149 runners, 24.8%; P Nicholls, 31 from 140, 22.1%; J King, 9 from 46, 19.6%; C Brooks, 4 from 29, 13.8%; R Alner, 13 from 103, 12.6%; P Hobbs, 13 from 106, 12.3%; C Popham, 5 from 45, 11.1%. Jockeys: J Lower, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; R Johnson, 8 from 32, 25.0%; J Tizzard, 5 from 22, 22.7%; R Dunwoody, 26 from 115, 22.6%; G Bradley, 8 from 38, 21.1%; D Burrows, 3 from 15, 20.0%.

RACELINE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY / RESULTS

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
DONCASTER	101	201
WINCANTON	102	202
PLUMPTON	103	203
IRISH	120	220

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

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FOOTBALL

Jones joins QPR in first step on managerial ladder

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

VINNIE JONES brought to an end the era of the Crazy Gang when he left Wimbledon to join Queens Park Rangers as player-coach in a deal worth £500,000 yesterday.

Jones, 33, agreed to sign a 3½-year contract, subject to a medical, and will work alongside Ray Harford, a former Wimbledon manager, as QPR seek to maintain their Nationwide League first division status. Harford said that he had signed Jones to bring in a "leader, a player with enthusiasm, talent and experience". It also represents an opportunity for Jones to take his first step on the management ladder.

Jones admitted that it was "a huge wrench" to leave Wimbledon, the club he gave up his job as a hod-carrier to join in 1986. He was an FA Cup-winner with them in 1988 and rejoined the club in 1992 after a three-year break with Leeds United, Sheffield United and Chelsea.

Jones said: "That's it now, the old Crazy Gang won't be there any more. It's a bit sad, but you can't live in the past and I have to be looking to coach and then to go into management. It's another challenge and, working under Ray and trying to learn from him, I couldn't turn it down. I've been working with Joe Kinnear at Wimbledon for the past 12 months or two years, so it's nothing new to me."

Kevin Keegan has signed Peter Beardsley for Fulham. Keegan, who signed Beardsley when he was manager at Newcastle United and played with him at the club before that, has persuaded the former England striker, 37, to join on loan from Bolton Wanderers until the end of the season.

"It's great news for us," Keegan said. "We've taken him until the end of May, because the play-offs come pretty late. I said to Peter 'do you fancy going back to Wembley, because that's where we're going?' It didn't take him long to decide."

Derby County have signed Lars Bohinen from Blackburn Rovers for £1.45 million. The Norway midfield player failed to win a regular place at Blackburn but Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said: "Lars could play a substantial part in us getting into Europe. He is a quality player who scores goals and he will be given a free role in a very offensive midfield position. I'm looking forward to working with him."

Ian Bishop returned to Manchester City yesterday, nearly nine years after leaving the struggling first division club for West Ham United. Joe Royle, the City manager, is hoping the experience of Bishop, 32, will help City out of the relegation zone. He said: "Ian has the qualities we need. Hopefully his composure added to our industry will give us another weapon."

Everton have agreed a fee with QPR for John Spencer, the Scotland forward. Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, revealed that he has also made an offer for another Sheffield United player, Vassilis Borbokis, who would be his fourth signing from Bramall Lane since he returned to Goodison Park.

Robbie Slater, the Australia international, has joined Wolverhampton Wanderers from Southampton for £50,000. Wolves have also taken Neil Emblen back to Molineux after selling him to Crystal Palace earlier this season.

Newcastle United have signed two teenagers in a deal that could eventually be worth £1.8 million to Darlington, their neighbours from the third division. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, has paid an initial fee of £500,000 for Paul Robinson, 19, and James Coppinger, 17, both forwards.

Remi Garde, the Arsenal midfield player, will retire at the end of the season. "I have decided to stop playing because I have had a lot of injury problems since I started ten years ago," Garde, 31, said.

Reading turn to Burns in quest for survival

TOMMY BURNS, the former Celtic manager, returned to management yesterday when he took over at Reading, who are bottom of the Nationwide League first division.

Burns, who was youth development officer at Newcastle United, has taken over from Alan Pardew, who was in charge for the 2-0 defeat at home to Huddersfield on Saturday. Terry Bullivant resigned as manager last week after becoming disenchanted with protests from supporters.

Burns was first offered the position nine months ago, when Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding, the Reading joint-managers, departed. He accepted verbally but was tempted away at the last minute by Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager.

Burns said yesterday: "I think I can save Reading from relegation, even though we have a tough run in our last seven games. I will definitely be strengthening the squad."

Bobby Robson, the former England manager, is considering a return to Holland to take charge of PSV Eindhoven for the second time in his career. PSV, managed by Robson from 1990 to 1992, during which time they twice won the Dutch league, are reported to have offered Robson up to £15,000 a week.

Sunderland have made Ian Branfoot, the former Southampton manager, director of their football academy. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, played for Southampton when Branfoot was in charge at The Dell and said: "Ian has a wealth of experience at every level in the game."



DAN CHUNG

Gascoigne leaves the medical centre in Darlington where he completed his move to Middlesbrough from Rangers

Gazzamania fails to stir Teesside

Richard Hobson on the low-key bow of Middlesbrough's new signing

The residents of Cedar Way had feared the day. They had expected the area to become a magnet for journalists and supporters since Middlesbrough moved their training headquarters to the village of Hurworth-on-Tees a little more than a year ago.

Life, to their considerable relief, has remained unaltered. They still walk the dogs, find room to park their cars and navigate the pavements without having to sidestep a film unit. Yesterday was rather different. For the first time, something happened of such significance that outsiders came to Hurworth. The certain something was Paul Gascoigne.

To suggest that pilgrims flocked, however, is to distort reality. A dozen curious residents watched, but supporters were largely absent when Gascoigne, accompanied by his pal, Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardiner, arrived for his first training session at 10.15am. Perhaps the absentees knew he would drive straight past and leave for his medical, which he successfully completed, some three hours later via a back route.

"We were worried to start with, but if it is like this once in a while then we do not really mind," Alan Gibson, whose home is opposite the entrance to the training ground, said. "Let's hope he behaves himself so you people don't decide to come too often."

The rather muted feel was typified by Simon Bolton, the secretary of the Middlesbrough Supporters' Club, who had only made the journey from Redcar because a television company paid his taxi fare. "At the moment the scale of what we have done is sinking in," Bolton said. "Quite a lot of Rangers fans have telephoned me to say they are devastated he has left. He is still a hero to them. I think he will be a hero with us, too, but only if he he treats the supporters with the same respect as Juninho gave us. We will not put up with anybody freeloading."

In an interview with the *Middlesbrough Evening Gazette*, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said that Gascoigne's first for the game will ensure his popularity. "Paul likes a few pints now and again, but he is one of the hardest trainers I have ever worked with. We have our standards and our discipline and Paul will stick to them or be in trouble," Robson said.

There was also a welcome from Wilf Mannion, perhaps the club's greatest player, who described Gascoigne as one of the best players he has seen — high praise, indeed.

In the club's shop in the Cleveland Centre precinct, tills rattled healthily. This, however, had more to do with the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday than the new arrival. One customer said: "It is hard to think of him as a Middlesbrough player because we have not seen him yet. It is only when we see him play, and then in the pubs and clubs, we will get to know him."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

International match

CZECH REP (0) 2 IRELAND (1) 1
Smicer 46 Lasch 76 Breen 9
9,405
(in Prague)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Wimbledon 0 Watford 0.

Tuesday's late results

B INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland 4 Wales 0 (in Cumbernauld).
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Switzerland 2 England 0 (in Aarau).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Grimsby 1, Plymouth 0. Third division: Shrewsbury 0 Lincoln 2.
VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham 0 Kidderminster 1; Welling 1 Farnborough 0.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Falkirk 1 Partick 1. Third division: Ross County 0 Alloa 2.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Winsford 0 Barrow 0. First division: Bridlington Town 2 Stocksbridge PS 1; Buxton 1 Lincoln C. Ridon, 0 Witton 1; Matlock Town 6 Harrogate Town 0; Whitley Bay 2 Great Harwood 0; Worksop 3 Eastwood Town 1. Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Chorley 3 Altrincham 2 (Altrincham win 4-3 on agg). President's Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Guiseley 1 Ashton United 1 (Guiseley win 3-2 on agg).
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bromsgrove 3 Ashford (); Cambridge City 2 King's Lynn 0; Hastings 3 Worcester 1. Southern division: First 1 Basildon 2; Tonbridge Angels 0 Newport IoW 1; Witney 4 Gloucester 2. League Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Redditch 3 Bleston 1 (Redditch win 3-2 on agg).
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 3 Hitchin 0; Boreham Wood 2 Harrow 2; Carshalton 0 Chesham 1; St Albans 4 Oxford City 1. First division: Bognor Regis 0 Leyton Pennant 2; Romford 1 Billericay 2; Thame 1 Staines 1; Wembley 1 Uxbridge 3. Second division: Egham 2 Rungerford 0; Wealdstone 3 Tilbury 1; Windsor and Eton 1 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Wivenhoe 2 Witham 1. Third division: Clapton 0 Hemel Hempstead 3; Corinthian C 3 Ware 2; Epsom and Ewell 4 Aveley 2; Hertford 2 East Thurrock 2. Full Members Cup: Semi-final: Hendon 2 Maidenhead Utd 1
SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final: Welwyn 0 Luton 2.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 3 Porthmadog 3; Barry 2 Rhayader Town 0; Inter Cable-Tel 3 Carmarthen Town 0; Total Network Solutions 0 Connah's Quay 0; Newtown 1 Rhyl 1; Caersws 3 Haverfordwest 1.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 1 Arsenal 0.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 0 Blackburn 0. First division: Coventry 0 West Bromwich 1; Notts County 1 Leicester 1; Wolverhampton 1 Sunderland 1.
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Herne Bay 3 VCD 0; Tunbridge Wells 1 Greenwich 0; Ramsgate 2 Crey 1.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries 2 Chadderton 2; Newcastle Town 2 Glossop North End 0; Rossendale 4 Holker Old Boys 1; Salford 0 Clitheroe 3; Vauxhall GM 3 Atherton LR 0.
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 0 Endsleigh 3.
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College 0 Kings Heath 1.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Littlehampton 1 Saltdean 1; Peacehaven and Telscombe 3 Shoreham 1.
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Kington 2 Westfields 2.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold 2 Eccleshill 0; Selby 4 Ossett Alb 1.
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Knypersley V 2 Barwell 2; W Mid Police 2 Rocester 2.
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cove 1 Ashford 3.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Morpeth 0 South Shields 0; Tow Law Town 1 Billingham Synthonia 4.
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham R 0 Brentwood 0; Southend M 1 Bowers 2; Stansted 3 Sawbridgeworth 2.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Diss 1 Ely 3; Halstead 2 Soham 2; Newmarket 3 Sudbury Tn 2; Sudbury Wanderers 1 Bury Town 1; Woodbridge 2 Great Yarmouth 2.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury 2 Portsmouth RN 0.
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: St Margaretsbury 1 Waltham Abbey 3.
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Chard 2 Bristol Manor Farm 2; Westbury 1 Bridgwater 2.
UNIBOND UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Long Buckby 1 Northampton Spencer 3; Mirdeas Blackstone 1 Holbeach 1; St Neots 0 Spalding 2; Stotfold 1 Desborough 3; Wellingborough 2 Boston 2.
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Blyth Spartans 2 Garswood St Helens 3; Preston 7 Coventry 1. Southern division: Ipswich 3 Leyton Orient 1; Langford 4 Brighton and Hove 1; Wimbledon 2 Barry 2.

Lascta checks Ireland's progress

Czech Republic..... 2
Ireland 1

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

AN IRELAND team of inexperienced youngsters were finally overwhelmed by the sheer ferocity of the Czech Republic's second-half comeback as Mick McCarthy suffered the ninth defeat of his 22-match reign as manager in Olomouc yesterday.

Despite going ahead with a ninth-minute goal from the Coventry City defender, Gary Breen, the young Ireland line-up could not contain the power and pace of the Czechs after the break, having held their own before the interval.

McCarthy gave debuts to Mark Kinsella, of Charlton Athletic, Alan Maybury, of Leeds United, and Damien Duff, of Blackburn Rovers — and, by the end, had added three more newcomers in Graham Kavanagh, of Stoke City, Robbie Keane, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Rory Delap, of Derby County.

It had all started so brightly for one of the youngest Ireland sides as Breen latched on to Gareth Farrelly's flick-on from a Gary Kelly corner and fired home a close-range drive.

The closest that the Czechs came before the break was when Karel Poborsky shot over from 15 yards and Kenny Cunningham, the Ireland captain, made a superb tackle to deny Pavel Kuka.

McCarthy decided to pep up his attack at the start of the second half with the introduction of Keane, who, at 17 years and eighteen months, became the youngest Ireland international since Jimmy Holmes, of Tottenham Hotspur, in 1961.

However, the Czech Republic equalised within three minutes of the restart through Vladimir Smicer. Edvard Lascta, another substitute, then drilled the winner past Shay Given from eight yards with 15 minutes left.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Postulka — Latal, Kozel, Rada, Novotni, Cizek (sub: Lascta, 70min), Nemec, Poborsky, Kuka (sub: Lakvenic 59), Smicer (sub: Fukal 88), Bejbl

IRELAND: S Given — A Maybury (sub: R Keane, 45), J Kenna, L Carsley (sub: K Kavanagh, 84), K Cunningham, G Breen, M Kinsella, G Farrelly (sub: A McLoughlin, 60), D Connolly (sub: K Kilbane, 60), R Kelly, D Duff (sub: R Delap, 72).

Referee: M Jurco (Slovakia)

PETR JOSEK / REUTERS



Farrelly, of Ireland, contests possession with Poborsky in Olomouc yesterday

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan moves on

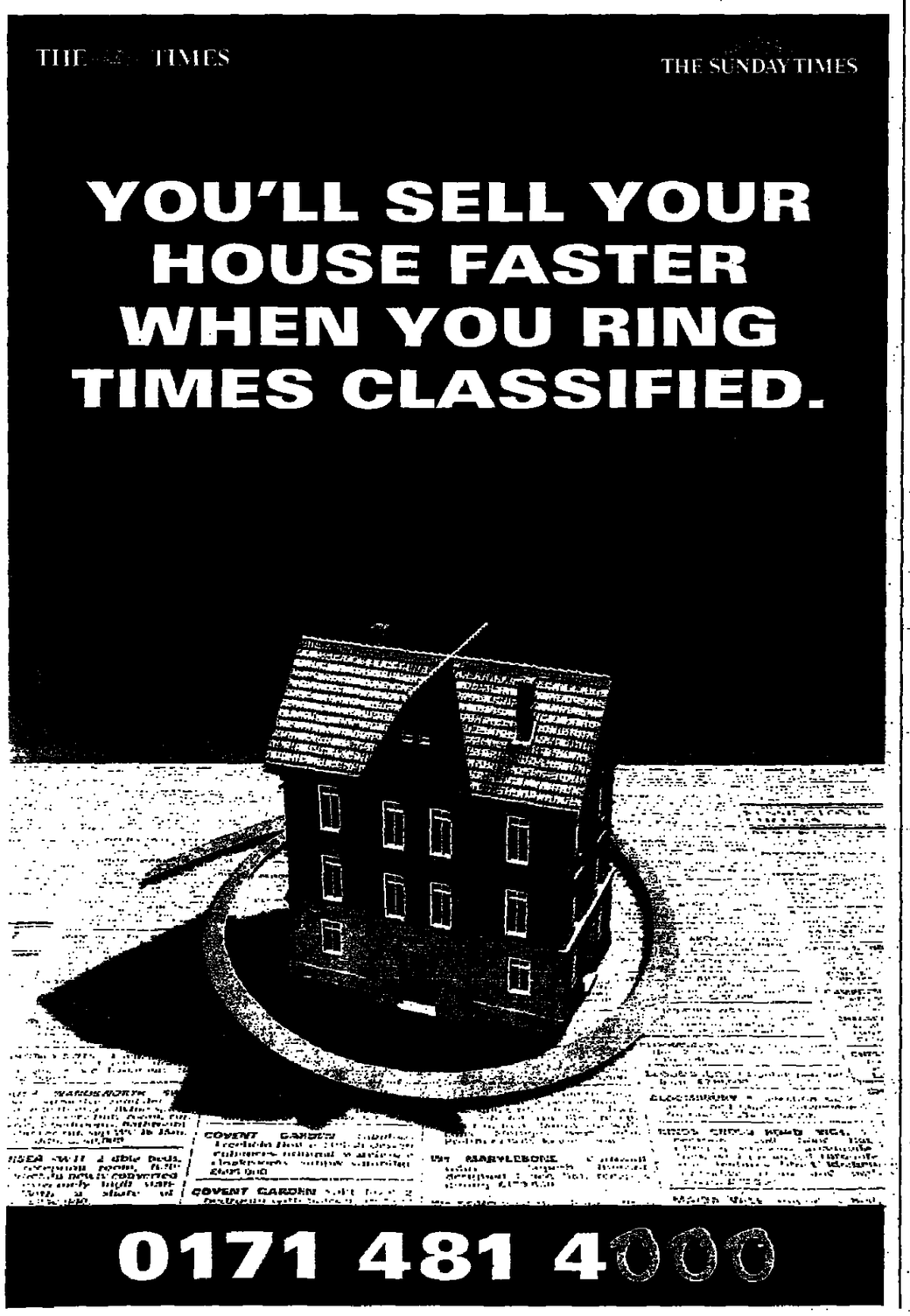
RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, as inconsistent as he is naturally gifted, admitted that he has often been guilty of wasting his talent after a 6-2 victory over Jimmy White in the first round of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

"Obviously, I haven't fulfilled my potential and at times I can't understand why I haven't won the world championship yet," O'Sullivan said. "The reason is commitment. There are some days when snooker means everything to me and others when I couldn't give a damn."

On the vast majority of occasions this season, O'Sullivan's attitude has been exemplary. He is undoubtedly growing more patient when not playing at his best and the ability to accept that he cannot always operate at optimum efficiency certainly helped him to get the better of White yesterday.

In a match of disappointing quality, O'Sullivan refused to allow his focus to become blurred. He compiled breaks of 56, 96 and four others more than 40 but his most important contributions were the colour clearances that enabled him to snatch the second and fourth frames.

O'Sullivan, attempting to win his fourth tournament of the 1997-98 campaign after triumphs at an invitation event in China, the United Kingdom championship and the Regal Scottish Open, is now through to the quarter-finals, where he will meet tougher opposition in Stephen Hendry tomorrow afternoon.



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RUGBY UNION: INJURY DEALS FURTHER BLOW TO INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Rodber to sit out remainder of season

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

TIM RODBER, the England back-row forward and Northampton captain, will today confirm that his season is over — two days before his club plays Saracens in the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup. A damaged knee ligament will remove him not only from the semi-final, but from England's final Five Nations Championship match against Ireland and the summer tour of the southern hemisphere.

Little has gone right for Rodber since a stomach ailment forced his withdrawal from the final match of the British Isles tour of South Africa last July. He played in England's match against Australia in Sydney seven days later, but a combination of selectorial preference and injury has stopped him from adding to his 32 England appearances this season.

Rodber damaged the anterior cruciate ligament in training last week and has been undergoing tests since then to assess the extent of the damage. Northampton hope that an operation will not be necessary, but a period of rehabilitation will almost certainly remove him from the party to tour Australia, New Zealand and South Africa during June and July.

The irony of the situation will escape no one. Three weeks ago Rodber was at the focal point of the row between England's leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) over availability for the summer tour. Keith Barwell, the Northampton chairman, threatened to withdraw Rodber, Paul Grayson and Matt Dawson from the tour because they needed rest. It was not a situation that Rodber welcomed, but he had to accept it until the clubs stepped back from the conflict.

Rodber, 28, suffered concussion playing in a midweek game against the New Zealanders in November, just when he was on the point of recovering his international place. Since then Clive Woodward, the England coach, has been experimenting with a back row composed entirely of flankers. When Richard Hill, the Saracens player, withdrew with a disc problem, Rodber might have hoped for selection for the game on Sunday against Scotland but Dean Ryan was named ahead of him.

"I feel very disappointed for Tim because he can be a player for all seasons," Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, said. "He is very good in open play or if you want a tight, driving game, and he's very strong defensively." The immediate beneficiary of Rodber's absence against Saracens is likely to be Don MacKinnon, who will join Grant Seely and Budge Pountney in the back row.

Meanwhile, Bedford, already champions-elect of the second division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, are to appeal against the deduction of two points for fielding an ineligible player against Fylde in January. The English Rugby Partnership decided that the Australian centre, Alistair Murdoch, should not have played as a replacement in that match because it brought to three the number of Bedford's overseas players. Bedford contend that Murdoch should be regarded as a home player because he has British antecedents. Bedford plan to announce tomorrow whether or not they will stay at Goldington Road or search for a new home next season.

Newcastle have confirmed that they will play their Premiership games with Leicester and Bath at Gateshead International Stadium on, respectively, May 4 and May 11, both Mondays.

ANDREW WONG



Rodber will miss Northampton's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final against Saracens

Swansea end long wait

Swansea University 17
Univ of Northumbria 3

By Gerald Davies

FOR the first time since the war, Swansea won the British Universities Sports Association Championship outright at Twickenham yesterday. The Welsh university shared the title in 1965 but had won it six times before 1939.

None celebrated the victory more than Stan Addicott, head of physical education at Swansea. Since joining the staff in 1971, he has seen players such as Adedayo Adebayo, Richard Hill and Robert Howley pass through his hands and has seen his students reach the final on seven occasions, only to fall at the final hurdle each time.

Both sides dominated at different stages and had sufficient opportunities to win the contest before the final few minutes, when it was actually settled. Three times players crossed the line — two for Swansea, one for Northumbria — only to be held up and the score denied.

In the first half, the delicate kicks of Lee Davies were an influential tactic. From these, Swansea squandered many chances and made many wrong choices.

When Davies did cross, he was brilliantly stopped from grounding the ball by Grant Thompson. However, from a scrum that followed, Grabham and Griffiths manoeuvred the ball for Meredith to be pushed over. Davies converted.

A seven-point lead hardly reflected Swansea's superiority at this stage but after McCullough had reduced the gap with a penalty goal, Northumbria, prompted by Hepher, began to look as if they could exploit the gaps.

They should have scored when Foreman, with players outside him, went on his own but was held up on the line. After this chance had gone astray, Swansea regained their composure and in the last ten minutes Davies added ten points with a penalty goal, try and conversion.

SCORERS: Swansea: Tries: Meredith (21min); L Davies (83) Conversions: L Davies 2. Penalty goal: L Davies (76). Northumbria: Penalty goal: McCullough (44).
SCORING SEQUENCE: 7-0 (half-time), 7-3, 10-3, 17-3.
SWANSEA UNIVERSITY: G John, B Davies, B Williams, O Jones, R Jories (rep: A Cox, 49min); L Davies, E Lewsey; N Hennessy, G Thomas (rep: A Winter, 82), J Meredith, P Langley, A Wright, B Martin (rep: R Lewis, 75), R Griffiths, A Grabham
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA: N Gandy (rep: L Richardson 30); G Thompson, G Foreman, M Thomson, G McCullough; A Hepher, A Chilton (rep: P Davies, 78); F Brannigan, J McNeish, D Conwood, H Quigley, C Yeoman, E Thorpe, S Hobson, R Beattie.
Referee: A Rowden (RFU)

Atherton bows out in the finest tradition of sports leadership

BRYANT'S EYE

In the event of sporting emergency, fire the man at the top. That seems to be the chilling message this week for anyone who wants to play the tough game of sporting leadership.

At Newcastle United, Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd resigned from the club's board in shame. In the West Indies, Mike Atherton quit the captaincy of the England cricket team in sorrow.

The ability to lead is elusive, mysterious and all too easily lost. Atherton always carried the heavy weight of leadership diffidently and uneasily, while Hall and Shepherd kicked their leadership around with contempt. Vince Lombardi, the legendary American football coach, who was famed for his autocratic and brutal approach to his duties, defined sporting leadership as "the ability to direct people — but more important, to have those people so directed accept it".

The ousted men at Newcastle might see it more simply as "the ability to take the responsibility and blame for failure". Atherton has done just that and stepped out of the captaincy as an honourable man who has *judged that his time is up. In* so doing, he is true to the traditions of the game and to a concept of sporting leadership entirely invented by the Victorians.

Until the mid-19th century, cricket, with every other sport, was seen as a dangerous and subversive pastime that challenged authority and was open to gambling, cheating and hooliganism. The men who took it over and changed everything were not *sporting leaders, but leaders* who specialised in education and moral reform, who lived in daily horror and expectation that sport would spawn endless adventures like those of Hall and Shepherd in that Spanish brothel.

Yet, by the time these stern Victorians had finished with the laws and culture of sport, they had transformed it into something that supported society rather than challenged it. Those who played by the *new rules could be hailed as* heroes rather than villains — and there was no greater hero than the captain, bravely and selflessly leading his men into battle.

The trouble with this, of course, is that if you lose too many battles, there will be plenty who want you to fall on your sword. So England's cricket captains have a sorry history and some have paid a terrible price for the pressures of leadership. Arthur Shrewsbury, who captained England from 1884 to 1887, shot himself at the age of 47. Andrew Stoddart, captain from 1893 to 1898, was another suicide at the age of 52.

Douglas Jardine, one of the most ruthless and controversial of England's captains, famous for his bodyline tactics, was cold-shouldered by the cricketing establishment, yet, in terms of results, was one of the most successful of Test captains, second only in the percentage of Test matches he won to W. G. Grace.

> "There was no greater hero than the captain"

Captaincy in cricket is a far more demanding role than many leadership positions in sport, requiring an intuitive ability to react flexibly to situations and personalities. Mike Brearley, who wrote a classic book on the art of captaincy, showed, during the Ashes series of 1981, that an intelligent captain can do wonders in influencing his players, but far too many England captains have found themselves perched on a joy*less pedestal trying to cope* with a job that has an unforgivingly high profile.

By contrast, captains in many other sports get off amazingly lightly. In football, it is only when the pressures of coaching are added to those of playing that the job of leadership becomes really tough. So Gianluca Vialli at Chelsea will wrestle with the problem of whether he should play himself in the Coca-Cola Cup final.

In the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race on Saturday, Davis Cassidy, the Cambridge *president, will lead from the* towpath, having decided to row himself in the reserve crew. "It's a good precedent," he said. "The last two presidents who did not row saw their crews win."

Such decisions, to put the good of the team ahead of personal performance, are the essence of great sporting leadership and just what those Victorian educationalists had in mind. For them, great sporting leadership did not even demand that you had to be on the winning side.

A Europe-wide survey taken little more than a year ago to find the most impressive sporting record of the 20th century decided that it was the achievement of being the *first man to reach the South* Pole, a race won in 1911 by the Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen.

But the man best remembered from this adventure was the man he defeated, Captain Robert Falcon Scott. He is remembered for his sporting leadership, for the way that he stuck with his men and tried to inspire them to heroic efforts even in the face of death and defeat.

So did Scott, who had *raised the role of captain to* that of international hero, want his own son groomed one day for sporting leadership? Well, not really. When they found Scott's body with his companions, just 11 miles from a life-saving food depot, they also found a letter to his wife. It contained his wishes for his son's upbringing.

"Make the boy interested in natural history," it said, "it is better than games."

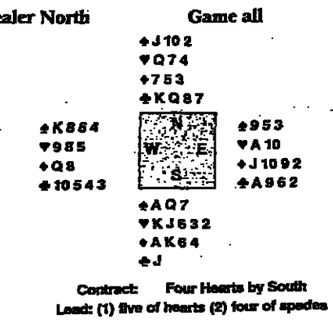
JOHN BRYANT

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There was an interesting battle between declarer and the defence on this deal from the final of the 1997 Bermuda Bowl between United States 2, the holders, and France, *the eventual winners.*

Dealer North — Game all — IMPs



Contract: Four Hearts by South
Lead: (1) five of hearts (2) four of spades

Both Souths declared Four Hearts. The French West led the five of hearts to his partner's ace. East switched to the jack of diamonds and declarer won and knocked out the ace of clubs. With the heart queen as an entry to dummy he could take four hearts and two tricks in each side suit; +620.

In the other room Eric Rodwell for United States 2 led a spade. That looks to be helpful but in fact gives declarer nothing he cannot get for himself eventually. Christian Mari won dummy's jack and led a low club. Jeff Meckstroth (East) went in with his ace and switched to a diamond. Now declarer's problem was how to get to dummy to take his discards on the clubs. Mari won the diamond with the ace and led the king of hearts, ducked without a flicker by East. The heart jack is the winning play now, but only because the ace is doubleton.

Mari changed tack when the first heart held. He played king and another diamond, with the idea of ruffing the fourth round in dummy. East won the third round of diamonds while West pitched a club. A spade came through and declarer rose with the ace and ruffed his last diamond low, West throwing another club. Now declarer threw his last spade on a club winner and played the heart queen. Meckstroth won the heart ace and played a club and West's nine of hearts was promoted for the setting trick.

☐ *The Times Book of Bridge I*, a compendium of some of Robert Sheehan's daily columns, is now available in all good bookshops or direct from the publisher, B. T. Batsford, on 01376 321276, price £6.99 (plus £1 postage and packing).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Fifty years ago

In yesterday's column I summoned up the model of the 1948 world championship match tournament as a possible resolution to current difficulties besetting the true destination of the world chess crown. A good solution would be to revive this match tournament format with a competition between Kasparov, Karpov, Anand and Kramnik, each playing the other, say, six times, with the winner being regarded as world champion.

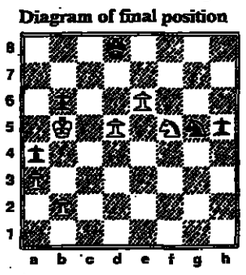
An alternative would be for Kasparov to invite Karpov, Anand, Kramnik and possibly Ivanchuk and Shirov as well to participate in such a match tournament to determine a challenger to his title. Should any prospective contender refuse, Kasparov would at least have been seen to be acting democratically in establishing a challenge to his throne. Today's game is a further example of Botvinnik's domination from the 1948 match tournament.

White: Mikhail Botvinnik
Black: Paul Keres
Hague/Moscow world championship 1948

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	Nf3	Bf5
3	c4	e6
4	cxd5	exd5
5	Qb3	Nc6
6	Bg5	Be7
7	Bxe7	Ngxe7
8	e3	Qd6
9	Nbd2	0-0
10	Rc1	a5
11	a3	Rfc8
12	Bd3	a4
13	Qc2	Bxd3
14	Qxd3	Nd8
15	0-0	Ne6
16	Rc3	b5
17	Qc2	Rcb8
18	Ne1	Nc8
19	Rc6	Qe7
20	Nd3	Nb6
21	Nb4	Rd8
22	Qf5	Rd6
23	Rfc1	Rxc6
24	Rxc6	Rd8
25	Rxb6	cxb6
26	Nc6	Qc7
27	Nxd8	Qxd8
28	Qc2	Qc7
29	Qxc7	Nxc7
30	Nb1	Kf8
31	Kf1	Ke7
32	Ke2	Kd6
33	Kd3	Kc6
34	Nc3	Na8
35	Na2	f6
36	f3	Nc7
37	Nb4+	Kd6
38	e4	dxe4+
39	fxe4	Ne6
40	Ke3	Nc7
41	Kd3	Ne6
42	Nd5	Kc6
43	h4	Nd8
44	Nf4	Kd6
45	Nh5	Ne6
46	Ke3	Ke7
47	d5	Nc5
48	Nxg7	Kd6
49	Ne6	Nd7
50	Kd4	Ne5
51	Ng7	Nc4
52	Nf5+	Kc7
53	Kc3	Kd7
54	g4	Ne5
55	g5	hxg5
56	fxg5	Nf3
57	Kb4	Nxg5
58	e5	h5
59	e6+	Kd8
60	Kxb5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

VAGARY
a. Imprecision of thought
b. An American carriage
c. A wandering

WINDLESTRAW
a. A withered stalk
b. To grumble
c. A scarecrow

WUP
a. To beat
b. To tie
c. A pitchfork in Suffolk

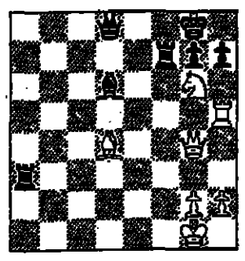
ZOOKS
a. An exclamation
b. Parsnips
c. Chicago detectives

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Zair — Rodriguez, Ubeda, 1998. Does Black have a better move than capturing the white knight on g6?



Solution on page 50

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GOLF

Opportunity knocks for Westwood

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

NOW that El Niño seems to have done its worst, the weather in Florida is no longer wetter than in Farnham. A sense of of normality has returned to the sunshine state and helped to contribute to the almost tangible crackle in the air before the start of the 25th Players Championship here.

With 46 of the world's leading 50 players involved, all sorts of issues will be addressed in the next four days. It is the anniversary of John Daly's last bender and on Saturday he will take delivery of a badge to mark the 365 days he has gone without tasting liquor. His weight has ballooned by 30lb or so, but apart from his eccentric performance in taking 18 at one hole on Sunday, the 1995 Open champion seems, after two recent fourth-place finishes, to be unusually committed. Long may it last.



Westwood: feels at home

Can Colin Montgomerie improve on the eighth and third places that he has filled in events in Florida these past two weeks? Goodness knows, he is overdue a victory in the United States and, after coming second here in 1996 and seventh last year, he feels that the Sawgrass course suits him well. These are important days for the 34-year-old Scot as he tries to ride out the undeserved storm of criticism that broke over him two weeks ago while struggling to keep up with the younger men who are making such an impression.

Can Lee Westwood add another sterling performance to the one that he gave when he finished thirteenth equal with Tiger Woods last week? He appears so at home over here it is hard to credit that he has played only six tournaments in this country.

"I played with Lee in practice," Ernie Els reported, "and he is very, very talented. He hits the ball closer to Tiger than I do. He is definitely a player to watch. He loves the game, has a good attitude and has got what it takes."

And then there is the continued rivalry between Woods and Els. What happened at Bay Hill, Orlando, 100 miles south of here last Sunday, is almost as significant as what happened in Phuket, Thailand, on Sunday, January 25. Then Woods staged a comeback that was remarkable even of his by his standards, coming from 11 strokes behind Els at halfway — and eight behind with one round remaining — to defeat the South African in a play-off.

Els's last two rounds were 74 and 73 and to say that he was browned off at the way he had let Woods catch him up would be a magnificent example of British understatement. Els was furious with himself.

Last Sunday, Woods, Els and Davis Love III, the three leaders, were paired together for the two rounds that it was necessary to play on one day in order to conclude the rain-delayed tournament. Woods and Love were two strokes ahead of Els after two rounds, but this time the tables were turned. Els streaked to victory with rounds of 65 and 73 to win by four strokes, while Woods collapsed. His last two rounds were 73 and 77, a cumulative six over par.

"I was smiling from ear to ear as I watched that," Peter Thomson, the former Open champion, said. "I think that helped Ernie to wipe out the memory of Thailand."



RICHARD POHLE

The Moor Park pair, John Livesley, front, and Gary Bothwell, line up a putt in the rain yesterday in the Sunningdale Foursomes, in which they lost at the 20th in the second round. The great and the good fell by the wayside in their droves but Roger Chapman, one of the nearly-men of the PGA European Tour, sailed on in fine style (Mel Webb writes). Chapman, 38, who has finished second six times on the European Tour, and his amateur partner, Ken Will, won by 4 and 3 in the morning and then beat Alan Bott and Phil Loxley 6 and 5 in the third round after lunch. In the 20 years since he first played in the Foursomes, Chapman has won it twice — in 1979 with George Will, the former Ryder Cup player and his present partner's father, and with Ronan Rafferty in 1986. Chapman and Will lost only three holes in their two matches, all of them in the morning round, in which they still finished four under par. In the afternoon they were two up after two holes and extended their lead to five with birdies on the 8th, 9th and 11th. They will be up against it today when they have to give seven shots to the defending champions. Julie Hall, a former Curtis Cup player, and Helen Wadsworth, the Welsh professsional.

Alfredsson whets appetite

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN RANCHO MIRAGE

HELEN ALFREDSSON is the only European to win the Nabisco Dinah Shore, the first major championship of the women's season, which starts at Mission Hills Country Club here in California today.

That was in 1993 and it was the Swede's maiden victory in the United States, but, extrovert though she is, she did not jump into the lake at the 18th green, a leap first executed, spontaneously, by Amy Alcott in 1988. Alcott also made a splash to celebrate her third victory in the championship, in 1991, taking Dinah Shore, a game septuagenarian, with her and Alfredsson explained her reluctance to get wet.

"I felt it was really Amy and Dinah's thing," she said. "I didn't feel it would be right for me to do it." Shore, the singer whose celebrity helped to give the championship its special status, died early the next year and Donna Andrews, who birdied the 18th to beat Laura Davies by one shot, revived the leap in tribute.

Alfredsson has already won twice this season and is second on the money-list, just behind Liselotte Neumann, her compatriot. Davies is looking to complete a set of all four majors and feels that her game is "like a time bomb waiting to go off".

Alison Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion, is not so sure of her game. Her season only began two weeks ago and, having missed the cut in Tucson and Phoenix, she is not yet on the money-list. Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, the only one of the 13 Europeans competing who is not a regular on the US tour, is also in uncertain form, having had a hysterectomy in January. She was allowed to swing a club only two weeks ago.

It is only the second appearance by the Frenchwoman in the tournament (her first was in 1989), a poor tally for a top-class player. The selection policy remains eccentric but at least the prize-money has reached the million-dollar mark this season, several years behind the other major championships.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Scientific wheels in motion

Local Heroes
BBC2, 8.00pm; not Scotland

Adam Hart-Davis takes his bike and his eccentric apparel to Ireland and celebrates, among others, the inventor of Irish coffee. You might not think there was much to invent but the trick is to ensure that the cream stays on top and Hart-Davis insists this is a very scientific drink. Hart-Davis's story is that this whiskey-laced beverage was devised by a chef, Jo Sheridan, to warm waiting passengers at Shannon airport in the 1940s. Hart-Davis also shows how to make the coffee upside down, with the cream at the bottom, but does not explain why anybody should want to. His other inventor heroes include Boyle of Boyle's Law, something that used to crop up in school chemistry lessons; the first person to explain why skies are blue and sunsets are red; and a 17th-century doctor who devised the catamaran.

2point4 Children
BBC1, 8.30pm

Andrew Marshall continues to undermine sitcom convention by switching from family friction of the conventionally cosy kind to very dark humour in the space of a few minutes. We begin with a standard mother-in-law joke, as Bette (Liz Smith) comes to stay with the Porter family and son-in-law Ben (Gary Olsen) contrives to be called out on an urgent plumbing job. Then comes that much rarer phenomenon, a father-in-law joke. It emerges that Bette's late husband, departed ten years before, was neither buried nor cremated but frozen. She explains that she got the idea from *Tomorrow's World*, a show that has much to answer for. To stoke the plot still further, the cryogenics firm where the body was stored has gone into liquidation, leaving Bill (Belinda Lang) to find a new resting place for her father.

Seesaw
ITV, 9.00pm

The final part of Deborah Moggach's thriller runs the gamut of middle-class guilt as the ruined Price family turns in on itself, husband against wife, wife against husband, parents against children and, just to complete the circle, children against parents. Moggach may dislike the comfortable, complacent


The Porter family (BBC1, 8.30pm)

bourgeoisie but you wonder whether the Prices deserve what she is putting them through. It was hardly their fault that their teenage daughter was kidnapped, or that paying the £500,000 ransom to get her back has brought financial ruin and sparked the recriminatory infighting. To be fair to Moggach she evens things up a little by showing that the money brings little joy to the kidnappers, and she contrives a nail-biting finale in which justice of a sort is done.

Horizon: The Limits to Birth
BBC2, 9.30pm

The midwife bluntly told Christine Greenwood that her premature baby would not survive and asked whether she would like it incinerated or would bury it herself. But the baby did come through and he is now a healthy five-year-old. Liz Tucker's film highlights advances in medicine which have dramatically reduced the age at which premature babies can be saved. Only 20 years ago it was 28 weeks, now it is 23. But the chances are still only one in ten and there is a high risk of disability, particularly brain damage. Christine Greenwood was lucky on both counts but we meet other parents who were not. The programme explores the dilemma for doctors of how far premature babies should be saved when their quality of life is so uncertain. It also looks at the prospects for reducing the age of survival still further. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Thursday Afternoon Play: Hideous Kinky
Radio 4, 2.00pm

The title of this *Thursday Afternoon Play* should not induce apoplexy relating to the hour of transmission for here the word "Kinky" has a meaning altogether different from the one it has acquired in modern times. The play has been adapted by Esther Freud from her own novel, which is based on her life as a child travelling in north Africa. A film version starring Kate Winslet is due for release at the end of the year. The story is told through the eyes and ears of two sisters, aged 8 and 10, who are travelling in Africa with their mother. The journey is at first a great adventure but the strain of the travelling and the constant worry about money soon reduce the allure, though the story is enchantingly told.

Analysis: Let's Go to Work
Radio 4, 8.00pm

The Budget measure abolishing national insurance requirements for low earners and their employers has again put the political focus on work. This and other measures, taken by this Government and the previous one, have all made the assumption that work is a Good Thing, an activity to be encouraged. This is the assumption that *Analysis* challenges tonight in a report led by Frances Cairncross of *The Economist*. Does everyone benefit from going to work or would society be better served if some people were paid to stay at home? Is the Protestant work ethic still valid? And is work more a burden that prevents people fulfilling themselves than a means to achievement that gives us a core purpose in life? Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Chris Moyles 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 The Evening Session Priority Night. With music from Catatonia, Travis and Idlewild 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Blue Jam 2.00 Charlie Jordan 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thrower 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 David Allan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Radcliffe & Maconie Show 9.30 The Goff Rhys Jones Show 10.00 Comedy Showcase 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie Othen

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 On the Line 8.00 Inside Edge with Rob Bonnet 9.00 SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd 9.30 Sportshop 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Calmin Jones 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Janey Lee Grace / Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: Shadow Baby 7.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 World Ranking 9.00 News; News in German (648 only) 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 They're Playing our Piped Music 9.30 Network 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 The Learning World 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Record News 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack X-Press 3.00 News; News in German (648 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Westway 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 News 4.15 Record News 4.30 Insight; News in German (648 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Assignment; News in German (648 only) 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Maskilen Books 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Insight 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 John Peel 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Composer of the Month 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Focus on Faith 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly. Michael Barry prepares warm potato salad. Plus, the Record of the Week, featuring the best of the week's new releases 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Nyman (The Piano Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. Presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics all Seven, with John Brunning 9.00 Evening Concert. Kyung Wha Chung plays Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in E flat); Lalo (Symphonie Espagnole); Elgar (Salut d'Amour) 11.00 Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am **On Air**, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Mussorgsky (A Night on the Bare Mountain); Canteloube (Bailero, Songs of the Auvergne); Tchaikovsky (Nutcracker Suite, excerpts); Copland (Fanfare for the Common Man)
9.00 **Masterworks**, with Peter Hobday. Haydn (Overture L'Infidelta Deluso); Beethoven (Horn Sonata in F); Schubert (Ballet music Rosamunde); Rachmaninov (Preludes); Grieg (In Autumn)
10.30 **Artist of the Week: Roger Norrington**. Joan Bakewell talks to Roger Norrington about his attempts to understand what composers such as Beethoven and Berlioz were trying to convey in their music (4/5)
11.00 **Sound Stories: The Cult of the Personality**. Donald Macleod examines the life of the Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (4/5)
12.00 **Composers of the Week: Louis and Francois Couperin**, with Paul Guinery (4/5)
1.00pm **Edits and Entrances**. Gordon Stewart continues his series about composers' methods of introducing and killing off characters in opera
2.00 **The BBC Orchestras**. BBC Concert Orchestra under Peter Maxwell Davies and Vernon Handley, with Ileana Ruhemann, flute, Sizet (Symphony in C); Maxwell Davies (Strathclyde Concerto No 6); Debussy (Printemps); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6)
4.00 **Ensemble**. Penny Gore presents performances by the Takacs Quartet; Haydn (String Quartet in C); Michael Berkeley (Torque and Velocity, premiere)
4.45 **Music Machine: Young Musicians '98**
5.00 **In Tune**, with Sean Rafferty. Includes at 6.35, a Performance of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in C minor (Pathetique) by Alfred Brendel
7.30 **Performance on 3**. A concert recorded earlier this month at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Ensemble Intercontemporain and the BBC Singers under Pierre Boulez. Webern (Entflieht auf leichten Kahnen); Birtwistle (AGM); Webern (Concerto for Nine Instruments); Webern (Five Pieces); Boulez (Cummings ist der Dichter); Stravinsky (Four Russian Peasant Songs); Bartok (Three Village Scenes)
9.00 **Postscript: After Virtue — Telling Tales**. Dr David Cook examines the impact of philosopher Alasdair Macintyre's ideas (3/4)
9.20 **Miniatures to Study**. Zoe Mather, piano. Ravel (Menuet sur le Nom de Haydn; Menuet Antique; A la Maniere de Borodine; A la Maniere de Chabrier); Serenade Grotesque; Prelude); Ravel, arr Charlot (Ma Mere Toyes)
10.00 **Music Restored**. Sonnerie performs Janitsch (Sonata da Camera in C minor); Frederick the Great (Flute Sonata in E minor); C.P.E. Bach (Trio Sonata in D for Flute, Violin and Piano); J.S. Bach (Six-Part Ricercar, The Musical Offering)
10.45 **Night Waves**. Patrick Wright talks to the Irish writer Sebastian Barry about his new play, Our Lady of Sligo, starring Sinead Cusack
11.30 **Composer of the Week: Liszt** (r)
12.30am **Jazz Notes**. Digby Fairweather presents a studio set from John Mayer's Indo-Jazz Fusions
1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) **Shipping Forecast** 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **The Moral Maze**, with Michael Buerk. Witnesses face cross-examination from David Cook, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and David Starkey. This week the programme is broadcast from Co Durham
10.00 (LW) **News; The Daily Service**
10.00 (FM) **News**; Frost in England. A look at the life and work of the American poet Robert Frost (2/2)
10.15 (LW) On These Days, with Liz Lochhead
10.30 **Woman's Hour**. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 **From Our Own Correspondent**
12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm **The Oldest Member**. A series of stories by P.G. Wodehouse. With Maurice Denham (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Hideous Kinky**, by Esther Freud. With Lisa Jacobs and Leal Rose. See Choice
3.00 **News; Afternoon Shift**, with Daire Brehan
4.00 **News** 4.05 **Kaleidoscope**. Paul Allen sees Caroline Quentin in an adaptation of the 19th-century play, The London Cuckolds, and Angels Rave On, a new play at the Nottingham Playhouse about a successful young priest who begins to worry the community
4.45 **Short Story: Coming Home**, by Nora Nalsh. Read by Sian Probert
5.00 **PM**, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.45 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party
5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** 6.30 **King Street Junior**. The school comedy by Jim Eldridge. With Karl Howman and James Grout (5/6) (r)
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **Watershed**. The third of four programmes in which Andy Kershaw examines the scarcity of water around the world
8.00 **Analysis: Let's Go To Work**. Presented by Frances Cairncross. See Choice
8.45 **Pen Friendly: A Need for Speed**. The novelist Hwee Hwee Tan exchanges e-mails with Marcel Moring in Rotterdam about their obsession with computers and all things digital (r)
9.00 **Does He Take Sugar?** With Frederick Dove
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**, with Robin Lustig
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: The Great Gatsby**, by F. Scott Fitzgerald (4/10) (r)
11.00 **The Ultimate Waltz**. Barry McKinley's comedy set in an asylum. With James Fleet, Mark Bonnar, Christopher Scott and Shirley Dixon (r)
11.30 (LW) **Today in Parliament**
11.30 (FM) **The Off Season**. Simon Calder visits Paris in August, when the Parisians have gone south to escape the hordes of tourists (5/6) (r)
12.00 **News** 12.30am **The Late Book: The Ambush at Fort Bragg**, by Tom Wolfe. Read by Frank Muller (9/10)
12.48 **Shipping Forecast** 1.00 **As World Service**

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Answers from page 49

VAGARY

(c) **A wandering or devious journey or tour. A roaming about or abroad. An excursion, ramble or roast. From the Latin vagāre to wander. Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*, 1759: "My aunt Dinah and the coachman led us a vagary some millions of miles into the very heart of the planetary system."**

WINDLESTRAW

(a) **A dry thin withered stalk of grass, such as is left standing after the flower or seed is shed. In northern dialect shortened to *windle*. Browning, *Fifine*, 1872: "Thistle fluffs and bearded windlestraws."**

WUP

(b) **To bind (something) round with cord, thread, etc. A Scottish word, of obscure origin, with many dialectal variants such as *woup*. Walter Scott, *Guy Mannering*, 1815: "A hank [of yarn], but not a haill ane — the full years o' three score and ten, but thrice broken and thrice *oop*."**

ZOOKS

(a) **An exclamation or minced oath, expressing vexation, surprise, or other emotion. Short for *Gadzooks, cf. God's sokinges*. "Morai,/ And as for that shocking bad habit of swearing, leave it to dustmen and mobs./ Nor commit yourself much beyond Zooks! or Odsbobs!"**

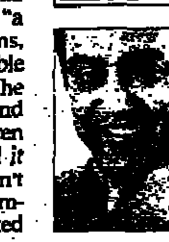
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Ra1+; 2. Bxa1 Qb6+ and mate follows.

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE: MW 693; 909. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO: MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McKiernan.

Trumping the benefactors in the Big Apple

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Because New York has the ideal combination of money *and social fluidity*, Manhattan has become the natural habitat of Charity Man — billionaires who are so rich that they no longer envy billionaires who have still more money, so much as they envy billionaires who have given more of their money away. It's the ultimate in conspicuous consumption: after all, how many people are so rich that they can afford *not* to lavish $10 million on themselves, but to spend it on financing a new wing of a museum instead?

Giving your money away is the modern, more socially graceful method New Yorkers have come up with to replace the old, less savoury method, which was mugging. *It* is one of the many ways in which Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has cleaned up the city.

The mayor himself even had a walk-on part in *The Generous Rich*, Mark Phillips's film last night for **Modern Times** (BBC2). He was posing for the cameras on Thanksgiving Day to promote "God's Love We Deliver" a charity which delivers food to Aids sufferers. Why? Because it's a very worthy cause. But it's also pretty good for Giuliani's civic image, and it just so happens to be *supported by Blaine Trump*, Donald's sister-in-law and a chum of Mrs Giuliani.

While "God's Love We Deliver" provides a meals-on-wheels service, the charities themselves provide a meals-for-the-well-heeled service, a busy diary of dinner parties at $20,000 a table. Once you have joined this circle you need never eat at a restaurant again. Your menu will be decided by people like Susan Gutfreund, a former air hostess who married one of Wall Street's richest bankers, and now spends almost as much time choosing the right caterer for the benefit dinners she hosts as the United Nations devotes to its Iraq policy. For one dinner, for example, she had discussed with her caterer "a soufflé that I had had in Lyons, and he went to enormous trouble to get the recipe for me. My God he went to trouble. And he got it! And they tried it and they didn't even serve it *because they didn't feel it* would be perfect and he didn't want us embarrassed — me embarrassed! — for having suggested the darned thing. And I was appreciative, because somebody else would say, 'That was Susan's idea, we did the best we could and there you have a soufflé looking like a flat custard'."

This is why Susan's recent ballet benefit raised $805,000; also why it cost $250,000 to stage. Susan especially loved the florist's trick of painting olive oil on to the dried chilli peppers in the table arrangements to give them a sheen, a little culinary trick many of us have been using for years. But now, sadly, the secret is out.

Over at a benefit for the New York Botanical Garden, its president, Gregory Long, was toasting a donation of $4.5 million from Louis and Dorothy Coleman. Louis made his money from day-at-a-glance, week-at-a-glance, and month-at-a-glance calendars. He has plenty of blank pages to fill with black-tie dinners. Dorothy is the second Mrs Coleman. Does Long ask for the money? "They don't give it if you don't ask," he says. "A few *people give anony*mously, but that's not done much anymore." That suits Long just fine: knowing who's given what *fans competition. You want* another benefactor to trump the last donation.

The tone throughout was slight*ly mocking. Some of Phillips's* victims deserved it. But, on the other hand, what harm do they do? And thank goodness someone keeps museums open for the rest of us to visit, and funds shelters to keep the homeless from being robbed and beaten up in doorways at night.

Me, I'd be willing to write a large cheque never to have to relive the needless pain and suffering inflicted by **March in Windy City** (ITV). David Jason is usually one of the most relaxed actors on the small screen. But he spent the entire two hours of this Chicago-based spy drama looking embarrassed to be part of it. It was the look *you see on the face of a* teenager who is wearing his Sunday best to visit his gran, and who is anxious that at any moment *some of his schoolfriends might* spot him in the street and snigger.

Richard Burton once admitted: "I've done the most unutterable rubbish because of cash. I didn't need it, but the lure was too great." Now that he is among the most bankable and best-loved TV stars in Britain, Jason should be wary of falling into a similar trap. Maybe *March In Windy City* was some kind of bizarre loyalty test Jason had devised to see how clunking, clichéd and improbable a plot and script would have to be before even his most devoted fans switched off and did something more entertaining, such as pulling out their own toenails with a pair of pliers.

The team from **Home Front in the Garden** (BBC2) have also made a speciality during their four-week run of creating needless havoc. Last night the three design*ers turned Tim and Bobby* Wilcoxson's large, green and inviting London garden — which was mostly in need of a tree-pruner and a lawnmower — into a multi-coloured arena that will require its owners to wear sunglasses even in winter to soften the Dayglo glare of the newly-laid red, yellow, and blue cement.

The neighbours told the designers that they found the transformation thrilling. Well of course they did: when it comes to the suburban battle of keeping up with the Joneses, the Wilcoxsons are now one neighbour they'll no longer have to worry about.

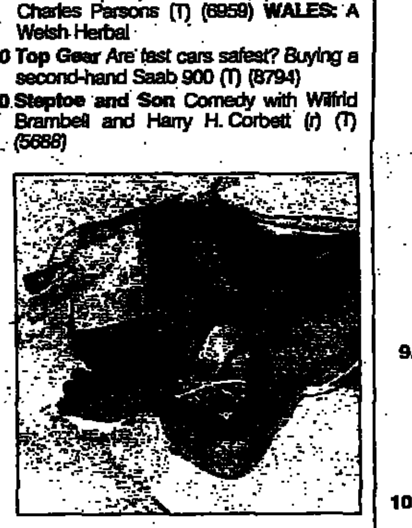
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (15959)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (85133)
9.00 Good Living (7444125)
9.25 Kilroy (T) (2772572)
10.05 Style Challenge (5594355)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2326741)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (1328713)
11.35 Real Rooms (1729133)
12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (8152133)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5710688)
12.35 Wipeout (2645572)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) and weather (88220)
1.30 Regional News (T) (54325572)
1.40 The Weather Show (66613171)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (72585442)
2.10 Ironside (r) (7444341)
3.00 Lion Country Paul Heiney meets Lord Bath in St Tropez (7688)
3.30 Playdays (7649404) **3.50** The Littlest Pet Shop (1678161) **4.00** McGee and Me (1504046) **4.20** Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde (1843688) **4.35** The Mask (5474591) **5.00** Newsround (T) (9792930)
5.10 Grange Hill (T) (1215341)
5.35 Neighbours *(r) (T) (494404)*
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (423)
6.30 Regional News (T) (775)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson (T) (2997)
7.30 EastEnders Pat proves a difficult patient; Kathy considers a new life in South Africa (T) (959)
8.00 Animal Hospital The staff treat a cat with a broken leg, while her owners attempt to hand-rear her six newborn kittens. Plus: an injured ferret, a badly neglected horse and an iguana on the loose in an old lady's flat (T) (8317)
8.30 [CHOICE] **2point4 Children** Bill's *mother comes to stay and* everything goes well — until a startling revelation concerning her late husband. (T) (9132)
9.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (928713)
9.05 Nine O'Clock News (T) and weather (584133)
9.35 Silent Witness (2/2) Sam is drawn along by an astute killer playing a chilling game of cat-and-mouse. Crime drama, starring Amanda Burton, Nick Reding and William *Armstrong (727404)* **WALES: *9.35*** Week In Week Out Special (904133) **10.05** Silent Witness (147404) **11.00** The Mrs Merton Show (2591) **11.30** Question *Time* (67959) **12.30am** FILM: California Suite (217485) **2.05** News Headlines and Weather (4990244) **2.10** BBC News 24
10.30 The Mrs Merton Show (T) (98046)
11.00 Question Time (T) (38387)
12.00 California Suite (1978) Maggie Smith and Michael Caine lead in a star-studded Neil Simon comedy following the fortunes *of four different parties staying at a lavish* Beverly Hills hotel for the Academy Awards. Directed by Herbert Ross (T) (888737)
1.35am Weather (2348534)
1.40 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am Building in Cells (3272046) **6.35** A *Tale of Two Cells* (1260249) **7.00** See Hear Breakfast News (T) (7681510)
7.15 Teletubbies (r) (5691201) **7.40** Captain Caveman (r) **8.00** Blue Peter (r) (T) **8.30** *Brum* **8.45** *The Record (3627881)*
9.10 Hallo aus Berlin (9816107) **9.25** Megamaths (7873201) **9.45** Come Outside (9401133) **10.00** Teletubbies *(71442)* **10.30** *Storytime (6892715)* **10.45** Teaching Today (341862) **11.15** Zig Zag (T) (7848713) **11.35** English File (T) (1736423) **11.55** Lifeschool (1747539) **12.20pm** Showcase *(8154591)*
12.30 Working Lunch (38152) **1.00** The Family Ness (r) (24205171) **1.05** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (24204442) **1.10** The Leisure Hour (7118959) **2.10** Make or Break (22552084) **2.40** News (T) (9713220) **2.45** Westminster (T) (4896152) **3.25** News (T) (1282423) **3.30** Gardening from Scratch (881)
4.00 Change That (4401171) **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (4471930) **4.55** Esther: Women Drinkers (6571152) **5.30** Today's the Day (152)
6.00 Hit, Miss or Maybe (r) (593442)
6.15 Third Rock from the Sun Sally meets Dr Albright's brother Roy and jumps to the *mistaken conclusion that he's a threat to* the aliens' mission (T) (123607)
6.40 BBC Young Musicians '98 Brass players (161881)
7.30 Regional Programme (201)
8.00 [CHOICE] **Local Heroes** Ireland's scientific pioneers such as the catamaran inventor William Petty, Robert Boyle, the man responsible for the vacuum pump, and the astronomer Charles Parsons (T) (6959) **WALES:** A Welsh Herbal
***8.30 Top Gear** Are fast cars safest? Buying a* second-hand Saab 900 (T) (8794)
9.00 Steptoe and Son Comedy with Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett (r) (T) (5688)

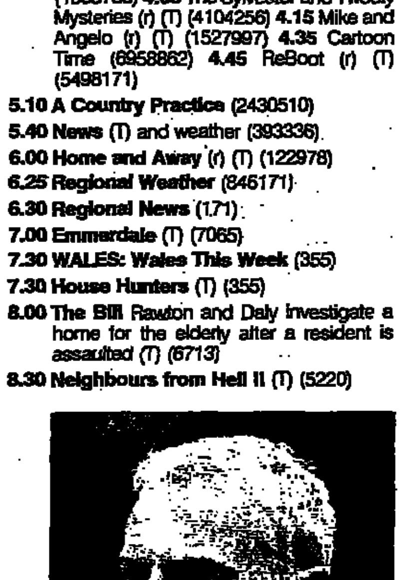


The remarkable Kristen (9.30pm)

9.30 [CHOICE] **Horizon** How advances in medicine and science give premature babies a better chance of survival (735423)
10.30 Party Political Broadcast By the Conservative Party (305201)
10.35 Newsnight (T) (949084)
***11.20 Late Review** Mark Lawson welcomes* Tom Paulin and Allison Pearson to discuss the week's cultural highlights (720171) **11.55** Skiing Forecast (251336) **12.00** The Midnight Hour (86440)
12.30 am Learning Zone: A New Way of Life (57602) **1.00** England's Green and Pleasant Land (93553) **1.30** Child's Play (69783) **2.00** Key Skills (43282) **4.00** Film Education (78805) **4.30** Regeneration (81718) **5.00** Teacher Training (68379) **5.30** Teaching Today (4725447) **5.45** The Industrialising East (33602)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4344978)
9.25 This Morning (T) (8517510)
9.30 Vanessa (T) (3291442)
10.10 This Morning (T) (98604959)
12.20pm Regional News *(8166336)*
12.30 News (T) and weather (32978)
1.00 Shortland Street (80688)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (31249)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show(T) (5914978)
2.45 Waffle (T) (610404)
3.15 News (T) (1280065)
3.20 Regional News (1287978)
3.25 Potamus Park (1260201) **3.35** Wizadora (r) (6335238) **3.45** Paddington Bear (4424354) **3.50** The Forgotten Toys (1385733) **4.05** The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (r) (T) (4104256) **4.15** Mike and Angelo (r) (T) (1527997) **4.35** Cartoon Time (6958862) **4.45** ReBoot (r) (T) (5498171)
5.10 A Country Practice (2430510)
5.40 News (T) and weather (393336)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (122978)
6.25 Regional Weather (845171)
6.30 Regional News (171)
7.00 Emmerdale (T) (7065)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (355)
7.30 House Hunters (T) (355)
8.00 The Bill Rawton and Daly investigate a home for the elderly after a resident is *assaulted (T) (6713)*
8.30 Neighbours from Hell II (T) (5220)



Neil Stuke as the kidnapper (9.00pm)

9.00 [CHOICE] **Seesaw** The final part of this thriller. Despite Hannah's safe return, her abduction continues to have repercussions. Change is profound as Hannah adapts to motherhood and the Price marriage nears collapse following Morris's infidelity(1133)
10.00 Party Political Broadcast by the Conservative Party (T) (946404)
10.05 News at Ten (T) and weather (817268)
10.35 Regional News and weather (327274)
10.45 WALES: The Ferret (872317)
10.45 Secrets of the Moor: Chris Chapman Explores the Mendip Hills (872317)
11.15 WALES: Barry Welsh is Coming (862930)
11.15 The West This Week (862930)
11.45 WALES: House Hunters (T) (861201)
11.45 The Guest List (861201)
12.15am Tales from the Crypt (90485)
12.45 am The Jerry Springer Show: You're a Home Wrecker! (3164553)
1.35 New York News (5082447)
2.25 Bonkers! (r) (T) (1305379)
3.20 The Chart Show (r) (4953195)
4.15 Vanessa (r) (T) (8354176)
5.00 ITV Nightscreen (55805)
5.30 News (36945)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (80688)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1761268)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2430510)
6.25 Central News (130997)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (448713)
10.45 Late Tackle (656591)
11.45 Pulling Power (861201)
12.15am Eastern Mix (90485)
1.35 Not Fade Away (6756992)
2.30 Box Office America (7897176)
2.55 War of the Worlds (1834379)
3.45 Eastern Mix (42190640)
4.10 Central Jobfinder '98 (3697824)
5.20 Asian Eye (1474756)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8158317)
1.00-1.30 Emmerdale (80688)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2430510)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (40997)
10.45 The Great Escape (872317)
11.15 On the Moor (862930)
11.45 Midnight Caller (652775)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2430510)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (591)
6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (171)
7.30-8.00 Down by the River (355)
10.35 Meridian News and Weather (622666)
10.50 FILM: True Identity (39247881)
5.00am Freescreen (55805)

ANGLIA

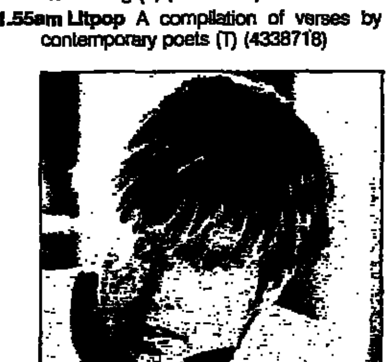
As HTV West except:
1.00pm-1.30 Surprise Chefs (80688)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2430510)
6.25 Anglia News (130997)
6.55-7.00 What's On (448713)
10.45 Cover Story (872317)
11.15 Signs and Wonders (862930)
11.45 Midnight Caller (778864)
12.40am The Jerry Springer Show (3158634)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen (6155485)

S4C

Starts: **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (38341) **9.00 Ysgolion** (554572) **11.30 Powerhouse** (1249) ***12.00pm Ricki Lake*** *(69797)* **12.30 Sesame Street** (23220) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (47525591) **1.15 Sam Tan** (47520046) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (72580997) **1.55 Racing from Doncaster** (47187084) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (864) **4.30 Countdown** (268)
5.00 5 Pump (8171)
5.30 Rotbusters (220)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (584930)
6.10 Heno (741881)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (421171)
7.25 Pwy 'Di Pwy? (842539)
8.00 Pam Fi Duw? (4355)
8.30 Darllediad Gwleidyddol Gan y Blaid Geidwadol (430292)
8.35 Newyddion (430249)
9.05 To the Ends of the Earth (356539)
10.05 First on Four (872688)
10.40 FILM: Enemies, A Love Story (68010084)
12.50am Dispatches (7607992)
1.40 Diwedd (73022621)

CHANNEL 4

7.00am The Big Breakfast (38341)
9.00 Schools History in Action (7889862) **9.20** Geographical Eye over Asia (T) (7809626) **9.40** Understanding Northern Ireland (T) (2984607) **10.00** Middle English *(T) (8115133)* **10.15** Worlds of Faith (8138084) **10.30** Scientific Eye (T) (6782201) **10.50** Off the Walls (6702065) **11.10** The German Programme (7834510)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (1249) **12.00** Sesame Street (69797) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (r) (18571) **1.30** The Three Stooges (r) (72580997)
1.55 Racing from Doncaster Brough Scott introduces the **2.05, 2.35, 3.10** and **3.40** races (47187084)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One *(T) (864)* **4.30** Countdown (T) (5468930) **4.55** Ricki Lake: Quit Your Sexy Job or I'm Gone (T) (6566220) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (220)
***6.00 Roseanne** Family relationships are* inevitably strained when Roseanne gets a job in the café where Darlene and Becky hang out (r) (T) (133)
6.30 Hollyoaks *Tessie gives Tony an* ultimatum; Cindy feels the pressure of motherhood (T) (713)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (570775)
7.50 Remember When? Valerie Nettles makes a video message for her son, Damien, who disappeared in 1996 (740978)
8.00 Seasiders The Stewarts continue their holiday at Haven's holiday centre near Scarborough (r) (T) (9539)
9.00 Dispatches (T) (790959)
9.45 Fourmations: Quest The winner of the best animated short Oscar in 1997 (T) (652268)
10.00 Closer and Closer (1995) with John York, Scott Kraft and Kim Delaney. A writer is haunted by her writings on a serial killer. Directed by Fred Gerber (T) (644978) [FILM]
11.50 WUSA (1970) with Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward and Anthony Perkins. A right-wing DJ exploits a social worker to expose corruption. Directed by Stuart Rosenberg (T) (94471404) [FILM]
1.55am Litpop A compilation of verses by contemporary poets (T) (4338718)



Paul Le Mat as Spider (2.25am)

2.25 Citizens Band (1977) Comedy about the trouble caused by citizen's band radio in a small American town. With Paul Le Mat, Candy Clark and Charles Napier Directed by Jonathan Demme (T) (123534) [FILM]
4.10 Living with Violence Elaine C. Smith hosts a discussion programme about domestic violence (r) (8353447)
4.55 Mrs Cohen's Money (r) (T) (53249282)
5.20 Right to Reply *(r)* (7144373)
5.45 Terrytoons (3168331)
5.55 Sesame Street (7065911)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt** decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02 and 7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News Early (8821084)
7.00 WideWorld (T) (5004268) **7.30** Milkshake! (6865065) **7.35** Wimzie's House (r) (4342268) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (1077572) **8.30** Dappledown Farm (r) (1009171)
9.00 Espresso (5407607) **10.00** Woodland Tales (T) (2475666) **10.30** Sunset Beach (T) (5181220) **11.10** Leeza (2977591)
12.00 5 News (T) (1087959) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (6948607) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (5003539) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (6947978) **2.00** Beauty and the Beast (1025125) **3.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (7590882)
3.30 Pork Chop Hill (1959) with Gregory Peck, Harry Guardino and Rip Torn. A vivid portrayal of the horrors of the Korean War. Directed by Lewis Milestone (2875249) [FILM]
5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards A trip to Wimbledon (37063065)
5.30 HouseBusters (r) (T) (7923171)
6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (7920084)
6.30 Family Affairs Mel realises that things will never be the same between her and Claire again (T) (7911336)
7.00 5 News (2445733)



A nine-banded armadillo (7.30pm)

7.30 Hairy Hunters: Poor Man's Pig New wildlife series. The armadillo is a recent addition to North American wildlife and though it is often blamed for eroding landscapes, there are also carnivals held in southern states to celebrate the creature (T) (7900220)
8.00 Water Rats Holloway is filmed in action by Internal Affairs, who are still not convinced of his innocence (8219607)
9.00 Made in America (1993) with Whoopi Goldberg, Ted Danson and Nia Long. Slapstick comedy about a black mother who reveals to her daughter that she used a sperm bank to conceive — and the donor turns out to be a white man Directed by Richard Benjamin (T) (8212794) [FILM]
11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (6506161)
11.40 The Morwenna Banks Show (r) (2728084)
12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb (46321553)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5208176)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5455244)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Street Sharks (36881) **7.30** *Games World* (7944268) **7.45** Simpsons (33959) **8.15** Oprah (8777510) **9.00** Hotel (86959) **10.00** Another World (11572) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (31336) **12.00** Married with Children (26201) **12.30pm** MASH (87442) **1.00** Geraldo (62897) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (98133) **3.00** Jenny Jones (85510) **4.00** Oprah (71317) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (4510) **6.00** Live 6 Show (9171) **6.30** Married with Children (1733) **7.00** Simpsons (2539) **7.30** Real TV (6607) **8.00** Suddenly Susan (8959) **8.30** Seinfeld (2274) **9.00** Friends (60201) **9.30** Veronica's Closet (74978) **10.00** ER (87161) **11.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (12201) **12.00** Late Show (17669) **1.00am** Raven (77602) **2.00** Long Play (1286331)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888 Each film costs £2.99 per viewing

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **The Portrait of a Lady (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **The Crucible (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **The English Patient (1996)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Beautiful Girls (1996)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Goldilocks and the Three Bears (1995) (41533) **7.30 The Man in the Brown Suit (1989)** (99891) **9.30 David Copperfield (1970)** (38607) **11.30 Unstrung Heroes (1995)** (23626) **1.30pm Goldilocks and the Three Bears (1995)** (86317) **3.00 The Man in the Brown Suit (1989)** (96572) **5.00 Vice Versa (1988)** (34862) **7.00 Unstrung Heroes (1995)** (41713) **9.00 Lethal Tender (1996)** (11423) **11.00 Moonlight and Valentino (1995)** (733226) **12.45am Desperate for Love (1989)** (849008) **2.20 Petulia (1968)** (759973) **4.05 Abduction (1996)** (357350)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am They Knew What They Wanted (1940) (64953) **8.00 Ghost Dad (1990)** (84652607) **9.40 Hell to Eternity (1960)** (41847681) **12.00 Legacy of Sin: The William Coit Story (1995)** (51736) **2.00pm I Remember Mama (1947)** (79488404) **4.15 Ghost Dad (1990)** (53315046) **6.00 Legacy of Sin: The William Coit Story (1995)** (84492171) **8.00 The Arrival (1996)** (10794) **10.00 Bad Boys (1995)** (77591) **12.00 Intimate Obsession (1996)** (411089) **1.35am Crosscut (1995)** (771669) **3.15 Eve of Destruction (1991)** (689060) **4.55 Travels of Marco Polo (1993)** (2365244)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Hatari! (1962) (150 mins) (97180442) **6.45 Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness on the Planet of the (1974)** (81322539) **8.30 Cry-Baby (1989)** (2840626) **10.00 The French Connection II (1975)** (4256591) **11.55 Blue City (1986)** (2320220) **1.20am Gardens of Stone (1987)** (7023534) **3.15 The Boy on a Dolphin (1957)** (8566350)

TNT

9.00pm Memphis (1997) (38594249) **11.00 Wise Guys (1986)** (53721355) **1.00am The Journey (1959)** (44698350) **3.15 Memphis (1991)** (35250718)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (69133) **7.30** Wrestling (79336) ***8.30*** *Sports Centre* (82510) **9.00** Racing News (73862) **9.30** Aerobics (18423) **10.00** Football (74189) **12.00** Aerobics (93626) **12.30pm** Boxing (29539) **1.00** Football (41249) **3.00** Futbol Mundial (7862) **3.30** Boxing *(7591)* **4.00** Sports Unlimited (28249) **5.00** Wrestling (1442) **6.00** Sports Centre (3775) **6.30** League Review (7355) **7.00** Boxing (47862) **8.00** Spanish Football (67626) **10.00** Sports Centre (94355) **10.30** Boxing (98539) **11.30** Formula Three (59268) **12.00** Sports Centre (68244) **12.30am** Spanish Football (34008) **2.30** Rugby Club (68114) **4.00** Boxing (43466) **5.00** Sports Centre (26331)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (5414688) **7.30** Sports Centre (5426423) **8.00** Racing News (9673794) ***8.30*** *Fish TV* (9672065) **9.00** Boxing (9663317) **9.30** Golf Extra (4455881) **12.30pm** Snooker (5669607) **2.30** Euro Tour Weekly (8034084) **3.00** Golf: Players Championship — Live (4054684) **6.00** Rebel Sports (8035713) **6.30** Ski Prime (8026065) **7.00** Sports Centre (2229797) **7.30** Golf: Players Championship — Live (6394249) **11.00** The Rugby Club (5499858) **12.30am** Boxing (5479195) **1.30** Formula Three (8002992) **2.00** Sports Centre (5796973) **3.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Wrestling (22951881) **1.00pm** Fish TV (22937201) **2.00** Cue Masters (97968978) **2.30** Dickie Davies' Sporting Heroes (45247626) **3.30** Sport USA (77342084) **5.00** Ski Prime (97943930) **5.30** League Review (25819201) **6.00** World of Sailing (25849442) **6.30** Formula Three (25830794) **7.00** Fish TV (38577572) **8.00** The Rugby Club (82793065) **9.30** Formula Three (22952510) **10.00** Football Scrapbook (92003084) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (64404) **8.30** Athletics: Sydney, Australia (39862) **10.30** Rally (97442) **11.00** Football: Germany v Brazil (52591) **1.00pm** Motors (24602) **2.00** Tennis: Mercedes Super 9 (60713) **4.00** Olympic Magazine (1794) **4.30** Football: Germany v Brazil (71626) **6.30** Football: Belgium v Norway (59626) **7.30** Tennis: Mercedes Super 9 — Live (86626) **9.30** Football: Pre-World Cup Friendly (12389) **11.30** Motors (67084) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Never the Twain (2334607) **7.35** Neighbours (1477201) **8.00** Crossroads (3712930) **8.25** EastEnders (2293152) **9.00** The Bill (3692201) **9.30** Howards' Way (1731336) **10.00** Shelley (6444220) **10.30** The Sullivans (3621713) **11.00** Casualty (5160171) **12.00** Crossroads (63802249) **12.25pm** Neighbours (63805336) **12.55** EastEnders (1222317) **1.30** Rosie (8661133) **2.05** Ever Decreasing Circles (5662713) **2.45** Stay Lucky (8419133) **3.45** The Bill (3685775) **4.15** Juliet Bravo (81722317) **5.20** EastEnders (2565775) **5.55** Big Break (4724084) **6.30** The Bill (4446881) **7.00 FILM: The Magnificent Two (1967)** (5152152) **9.00** Bugs (72700713) **10.05** Minder (65904404) **11.10** Jongleurs (3470607) **11.40** Three of a Kind (8772161) **12.15am FILM: The Creeping Flesh (1972)** (5563843) **1.55** Equalizer *(8481824)* **2.40** Shopping (21940060)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (1394775) **7.00** O&E (3770046) **7.30** Coronation St (3782881) **8.00** Blind Date (7046930) **9.00** First Among Equals (5578355) **10.00** Fortune Hunter (3788065) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (3768201) **12.00** Coronation St (4475152) **12.30pm** Families (7532404) **1.00** Watching (8779317) **1.30** Me & My Girl (7531775) **2.00** All for Love (6341713) **3.00** London's Burning (6018065) **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (6097572) **5.00** Mission: Impossible (9868591) **6.00** Families (5703626) **6.30** Coronation St (5794978) **7.00** Doctor at *Large* (9889220) **7.30** Bootsie & Snudge (5783862) **8.00** London's Burning (5172046) **9.00** Coronation St (6026084) **9.30** Wheeltappers & Shunters Social Club (7562268) **10.00** Mission: Impossible *(5195997)* ***11.00*** *Men & Motors (2236046)*



Nicole Kidman, John Malkovich in *Portrait of a Lady* (Box Office 1)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

5.00pm Blockbusters (97958862) **5.30** Hey Dad II (25824133) **6.00** Byker Grove (25821046) **6.30** A Country Practice (25845626) **7.00** London Bridge (97978626) **7.30** Get Back (25834510) **8.00** Desmond's (97954046) **8.30** That's Love (97968881) **9.00** The Kennedys (38588688) **10.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet (38581775) **11.00** St Elsewhere (40243133) **12.00** Cut and Run (92061008) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (82755805) **1.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree **6.30** Jungle Cubs **7.00** Recess **7.30** Pepper Ann **8.00** New Doug **8.30** Timon & Pumbaa **9.00** Aladdin **9.30** Quack Pack **10.00** Amazing Animals **10.30** Sesame Street **11.30** Winnie the Pooh **11.45** Paddington Bear **11.50** Alphabet Castle **12.00** Little Hippo **12.15pm** Animal Shelf **12.30** Rosie & Jim **12.45** The Toothbrush Family **12.50** Bear in the Big Blue House **1.15** Winnie the Pooh **1.30** Chip 'n' Dale **2.00** Goof Troop **2.30** Jungle Cubs **3.00** Timon & Pumbaa **3.30** New Doug **4.00** Pepper Ann **4.30** Recess **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** *Teen Angel* **6.30** *Boy Meets World* **7.00 FILM: My Date with the President's Daughter (1997)** **8.30** The Wonder Years **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.25** Crazy Crow **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** X Men **7.35** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps ***8.35*** *Masked Rider* ***9.00*** *The Magic Box* **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Pinocchio **10.30** Peter Pan **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **12.00** Gulliver's Travels **12.30pm** X Men **1.00** Spiderman **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.25** Adventures of Dodo **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Life With Louie **4.25** Life With Louie **5.00** Goosebumps **5.30** X Men **6.00** Spiderman **6.30** The Tick **7.00** Close

TCC

6.00am Big Dish **6.30** Oscar's Orchestra **7.00** Sprou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Ocean Odyssey **8.30** Spellbinder II **9.00** Road to Avonlea **10.00** AJ's Time Travellers **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Sprou **12.30pm** Oscar's Orchestra **1.00** Spellbinder II **1.30** AJ's *Time Travellers* ***2.00*** *Iznogoud* ***2.30*** *Flash* Gordon **3.00** Gigantor **3.30** Big Dish **4.00** Ocean Odyssey **4.30** Dennis the Menace

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from 5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** Ren and Stimpy ***7.00*** *Angry Beavers* ***7.30*** *Rugrats* **8.00** Doug **8.30** Arthur **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blues Clues **1.00** Clangers **1.30** Muppet Babies **2.00** Fraggle Rock **2.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks **3.00** Jumanji **3.30** Doug **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Captain Star **5.00** Rugrats **5.30** Sister Sister **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Kenan and Kel

TROUBLE

12.00 Swan's Crossing **12.30pm** Sweat **1.00** Echo Point **1.30** Heartbreak High **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing ***3.00*** *It's in the Jeans* ***3.15*** *On the Make* ***3.30*** Heartbreak High **4.00** Hollyoaks **4.30** Saved by the Bell **5.00** USA High **5.30** Sweat **6.00** Echo Point **6.30** Bangs **6.45** Rush **7.00** USA High **7.30** Hollyoaks

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Fifteen-to-One **5.50** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.05** Blockbusters **7.30** Give Us a Clue **8.00** All Clued Up **8.30** Whittle **9.15** Sale of the Century **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** 3-2-1 **12.30am** Moonlighting **1.30** Fall Guy **2.30** Boogies Diner **3.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga **3.50** Jeux sans Frontières **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm A-Team (6298959) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6201423) **10.00** Basement (3608882) ***10.30*** *Red Shoe Diaries (3617510)* **11.00 FILM: Prom Night (1980)** (3026065) **1.00am** Basement (7042553) **1.30** Tour of Duty (3584602) **2.30 FILM: Rage and Honour II: Hostile Takeover (1992)** (3583973) **4.30** *Red Shoe Diaries (7030718)* **5.00** A-Team (4773843)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (9323) **7.30** Roseanne (4881) **8.00** Cybill *(6133)* **8.30** Caroline in the City (5268) **9.00** Cheers (15775) **9.30** Ellen (74107) **10.00** Frasier (92997) **10.30** Duckman (78317) **11.00** Comedy Network (10220) **11.30** Grace *Under Fire (40510)* ***12.00*** *Ellen (98114)* **12.30am** Nurses (51466) **1.00** Cheers (68992) **1.30** Roseanne (80602) **2.00** Caroline in the City (69282) **2.30** Comedy Network (55089) **3.00** Frasier (88756) **3.30** Duckman (79669) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Quantum Leap (9661152) **9.00** The Cape (9658688) **10.00** 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1782423) **12.00** Sightings (1729195) **1.00am** The Bionic Woman (5867331) **2.00** Friday the 13th (5857485) **3.00** Tales of the Unexpected (1724379) **3.30** Dark Shadows (5600195) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am Joy of Painting **9.30** Garden Club **10.00** Gardens without Borders **10.30** Furniture Guys **11.00** Total Fishing **11.30** *Hometime* **12.00** Top Marques **12.30pm** This Old House **1.00** Yan Can Cook **1.30** Antiques Trail **2.00** Homemaker **2.30** The Log Cabin **3.00** Two's Country **3.30** This Old House **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Specials (4443794) **4.30** Disaster (4449978) **5.00** Top Marques (9889161) **5.30** Treasure Hunters (4423930) **6.00** Cover Story (1741713) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (5489305) **7.30** Ancient Warriors (4440607) **8.00** Killer Gas of Lake Nyos (6294133) **9.00** Disaster (8511152) **9.30** Medical Detectives (1713930) **10.00** Violent Minds (6217084) **11.00** Forensic Detectives (5156978) **12.00** Force 21 (8069008) **1.00am** Ancient Warriors (7056027) **1.30** Beyond 2000 (3086447) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Mzee: The Chimp with a Problem? (9818862) **7.30** Honey Hunters (9674404) **8.00** The Sharks (9597978) **9.00** Amazon Warrior (9500442) **10.00** Survival Game (9570201) **11.00** Sarawak: The Tidal Forest (9423152) **12.00** Crown of the Continent (2949008) **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00 Widlake's Way **1.00pm** Sports Safaris **1.30** Gathering & Celebrations **2.00** Tread The Med **2.30** Far Flung Floyd **3.00** Around Britain **3.30** Snow Safari **4.00** Holiday Maker **5.00** Sports Safaris **5.30** Aspects Of Life **6.00** Gathering & Celebrations **6.30** Tread The Med **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** Stepping The World **8.30** A Fork In The Road **9.00** Going Places **10.00** Far Flung Floyd **10.30** Around Britain **11.00** Snow Safari **11.30** Flying Sofa **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Heroes (8024572) **5.00** Weapons at War (3679238) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3067539) **7.00** Biography — Audrey Hepburn (6270713) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** *Food for Thought* **10.00** Who's Cooking Dinner? **10.30** What's Cooking? **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Winter Nosh **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Ideal Home Cooks **2.00** Perfect Pasta with Aldo Zilli **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** A Year at Ballymaloe **3.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **4.00** From the Ground Up **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Ready, Steady, Cook **9.35** Hart to Hart **10.30** The Young and the Restless **11.20** Brookside **11.50** Jimmy's **12.20pm** Diet Show **12.50** Rescue 911 **1.25** Adrenalin Junkies **2.20** Living It Up! **3.20** Jerry Springer **4.10** Rolonda **5.00** The Heat Is On **5.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Murder Call **9.00** UKLIV: **One of Her Own** **11.00** The Sex Files **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Narsayo **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Business **8.00** News **8.30** Aahaa **9.00** Setu **9.30** Massya Di Raat **10.00** Karb **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Dasaar **12.00 FILM 3.00pm** Mast Mast Hai Zindagi **3.30** Dastaan **4.00** Hum Paanch **4.30** Vikram Aur Betaal **5.00** Aur Ek Minute **5.30** Antakshari **6.00** Banegi Apni Baat **6.30** Bujho Geet Paheli **7.00** Dam Dama Dam **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** The Big Debate **10.30** Chashme Baddoor **11.00** Mario Ya Na Mano **11.30** Horror

هكذا من الأصل



RACING 47
McCoy secures his place among the greats

SPORT

GOLF 50
Westwood ready to light up the sunshine state



England earn draw in Berne

Merson gives Hoddle reason to be cheerful

Switzerland..... 1
England..... 1

FROM OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN BERNE

THE next stage in the heartening rehabilitation of Paul Merson lent a misleading gloss to another uneven and uninspired England performance here in the Wankdorf Stadium last night. The Middlesbrough forward's seventieth-minute equaliser earned England a patchy draw against the Swiss but it did little to lift the unease that has settled over their faltering build-up to the World Cup.

The only clear success of a match that had already been reduced in importance for England by a spate of injuries that robbed them of many of their first choice team, was the West Ham United defender, Rio Ferdinand. Michael Owen looked sharp in flashes and Martin Keown grew in stature but England can still count themselves fortunate to have finished the game level.

England, who went into the game having lost only once to their opponents in the last 50 years, did not begin as though they were going to keep that enviable record intact. Merson, in such fine form for Middlesbrough, looked ill at ease in his first start for his country for almost four years and the service to McManaman, on the right side of midfield, was patchy in the extreme.

The half started slowly and barely gathered pace throughout. Only Owen and Ferdinand, two players making a late run for inclusion in the World Cup squad, distinguished themselves. Ferdinand, as usual, was a model of calm at the heart of defence, moving swiftly to intercept when danger threatened and distributing with economy if limited ambition.

Owen looked every bit as lively as he had done on his international debut against the Chileans last month. Above all, he unsettled the Swiss with his pace, particularly Vega, who had suffered at his hands ten days ago when Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool met in the FA Carling Premiership.

As England laboured, struggling to keep possession, failing to reproduce the fluid, sharp passing that was such a dominant characteristic of their performances in the second half of last year, so the Swiss grew more confident.

After Lee had wasted possession in the twelfth minute with a quickly-taken free kick to Merson that flew past him to Sforza, Fournier cut in from the left and rolled a short ball to Sesa that provided Switzerland with their first opportunity. Sesa seized on the pass and turned in an instant before shooting narrowly wide.

McManaman and Keown endured an interlude of miscommunication midway through the half, twice playing each other into trouble and struggling to clear. After half an hour, the Swiss won a free kick on the edge of the area but Chapuisat's free kick was charged down and Sforza's follow-up was blocked.

The drudgery of the half was summed up when the Swiss made a hopeless mess of a free kick on the left. Fournier touched the ball to Wicky but he had already turned his back and made his run and Fournier was left to stand there waiting for an England player to clear.

Seven minutes before half-time, though, the Swiss made amends with a goal that stunned England. Ferdinand had already averted one crisis with a late interception but, when the resulting corner was not cleared, Sforza curled a ball in from the right with his left foot and Vega, a defender who is regularly pilloried for his Premiership performances, rose highest to glance the ball past Flowers.

England, who were fluctuating between a 4-4-2 formation and the 3-5-2 that Hoddle favours, pushing Hinchcliffe into midfield and back to full back, moved Lee wider on the right in the second half and gave McManaman a more central role. The improvement was minimal.

Merson, growing in confidence as the game progressed, provided a rare England incursion in the sixtieth minute when he drifted across the edge of the area from left to right and struck a drive just over the crossbar from 25 yards out. Midway through the half, McManaman chipped over, too, after a poor clearance from Corminboeuf had gone straight to Owen.

In the seventieth minute, though, Corminboeuf repeated his error and this time he was punished for it. His attempted clearance skidded low to Shearer, the England captain, standing about 30 yards out. Shearer looked up and floated a perfect pass to Merson in the Switzerland box and the Middlesbrough forward drilled his shot in off Corminboeuf.

It was six years to the day since he had scored his only other international goal, against Czechoslovakia in Prague, and, although he was replaced ten minutes later, it was enough to earn England a draw they scarcely deserved.

SWITZERLAND (3-4-3): J Corminboeuf (Neuchâtel Xamax) — R Vega (Tottenham Hotspur), M Yakin (VfB Stuttgart), S Henchoz (Blackburn Rovers) — J Vogel (Grasshopper Zurich), R Wicky (Werder Bremen; sub: J Lonfat, FC Sion, 82min), C Sforza (Kaiserslautern), S Fournier (Servette Geneva) — D Sesa (Servette Geneva), M Grassi (AS Cannes), S Chapuisat (Borussia Dortmund).

ENGLAND (3-5-2): T Flowers (Blackburn Rovers) — M Keown (Arsenal), R Ferdinand (West Ham United), G Southgate (Aston Villa) — S McManaman (Liverpool), R Lee (Newcastle United), P Ince (Liverpool), P Merson (Middlesbrough; sub: D Batty, Newcastle United, 80), A Hinchcliffe (Sheffield Wednesday) — A Shearer (Newcastle United), M Owen (Liverpool; sub: E Sherringham, Manchester United, 68).

Referee: P Garibian (France).

Frank Leboeuf could miss the Coca-Cola Cup final on Sunday after sustaining a shin injury playing for France last night. The Chelsea defender was taken off early in the second half during the 1-0 defeat by Russia in Moscow.



Henman concentrates on a backhand during his impressive quarter-final victory over Kuerten yesterday. Photograph: Al Bello/Allsport

Henman secures semi-final place

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

TIM HENMAN goes from strength to strength, after a crushing defeat of Gustavo Kuerten swept him into the semi-finals of the Lipton championships here yesterday. Henman has not dropped a set in this tournament, but this was his most impressive performance to date.

That is some tribute after Henman's earlier victories against Carlos Moyà and Petr Korda. However, this was the Briton at his best: positive in thought, aggressive in execution, bold when the situation demanded. Poor Kuerten was reduced to throwing down his racket in sheer frustration and stamping on it violently. It was a rare show of frustration from one of the ATP Tour's more mellow characters.

Henman now meets the winner of the match last night between Thomas Enqvist and Marcelo Rios, the form player of the season, with a place in the final as the prize on offer. The portents are encouraging. Although Rios is closing hard on Pete Sampras for the status of world No 1, Henman has struck form with a vengeance. His mind is settled and his silken volleying skills can hurt the very best — as he showed with this 6-2, 6-4 victory.

There were times yesterday when Henman was almost unplayable. Right from the start, when he broke the Brazilian with some forceful groundstrokes, the Briton's body language showed that he was in the mood.

He reaped rich dividends from several sorties to the net, negating Kuerten's passing shots with a combination of anticipation and a firm wrist. Kuerten increasingly resembled a boy in a man's game.

The first set was a one-sided affair. Kuerten, already trailing, flailed wildly in his disorentation to be broken to love for 2-5. Henman immediately capitalised, driving a clean forehand to the baseline the court to claim the set in 23 minutes.

Henman played to his strengths, dropping just three points on service in that opening set. His crisper groundstrokes forced a stream of errors from Kuerten's usually reliable racket. Even Henman's high-kicking second service, sometimes a liability, posed insurmountable problems for the hapless Brazilian.

The second set differed only in that Kuerten raised his game a notch or two. He bravely held for 2-3, fending off three break points, but a similar predicament in his next service game proved beyond him. Henman broke through at the fourth attempt for 3-2 and comfortably served out for victory. Not once could Kuerten stretch Henman's service to deuce in the 65 minutes that he survived.

"The way I have been serving and volleying has been the key to my last three victories," Henman said afterwards. "I feel it is easier to hit volleys than passing shots when the wind is swirling like that. That was my game-plan, but it's the execution of that plan that has given me the most pleasure this week. This is one of the best tournaments in my career for consistency." He has already done enough to suggest that he can surpass his career-best world ranking of No 14.

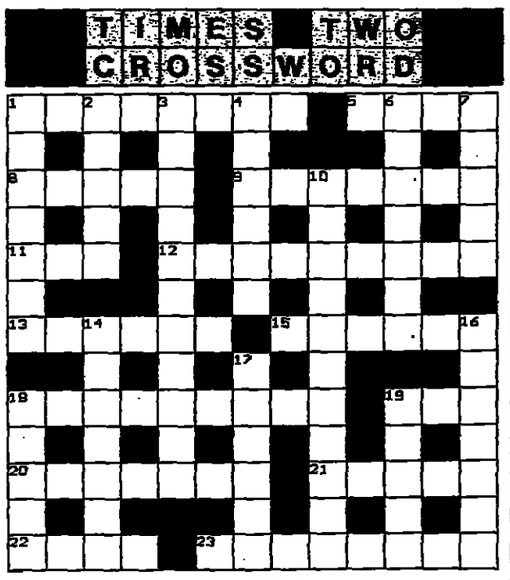
Looking forward to a possible match against Rios, Henman said: "A lot of people would agree that Rios is playing probably the best tennis in the world at the moment. He's been very consistent. He's the man to beat."

In the top half of the draw, Andre Agassi today plays the former scourge of Wimbledon, Jeff Tarango, for one semi-final place, while Alex Correja, seeded No 8, opposes the qualifier, Steve Campbell, in the other quarter-final match. This looks the easier section and the feeling grows that Agassi may yet offer the most potent threat to the supremacy of Sampras.

Agassi has generated considerable momentum since the turn of the year. The winner of 19 of his 22 matches, including two titles, this is his sixth successive quarter-final appearance of 1998. His ranking, anchored at No 141 four months ago, has already advanced to No 31.

Agassi, who has won this tournament three times, will not have life easy against Tarango — who is keenly awaiting the contest. "I beat him the first time we played," Tarango said. "He got overruled on match point and he started crying. I was eight years old and he was seven. He told people I had made him cry just to try and start a bad reputation for me."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1363

ACROSS
1 Happen together (8)
5 Of that nature (4)
8 Small (Scot.) farm (5)
9 Titivates; composes (5,2)
11 — Johnson, aviatrix; youngest Little Woman (3)
12 Old Harare; a Plain (9)
13 Go on board (6)
15 Rim, edge (6)
18 Recycleable-metal store (9)
19 Seed; Great Expectations hero (3)
20 Waves; paint spreaders (7)
21 2nd and 6th US presidents (5)
22 Tell of danger (4)
23 Install as king (8)

DOWN
1 Badge in hat (7)
2 Incongruity; mild sarcasm (5)
3 Calamitous reverse (11)
4 Little crease in chin (6)
6 Not reliable, not rigorous (7)
7 Joyful (5)
10 Friendly but fatal gesture (4,2,5)
14 Housebreaker (7)
16 Quick retort (7)
17 Plumlike tree (6)
18 Fastener; warder (slang) (5)
19 Socratic dialogue author (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1362
ACROSS: 1 Apse 3 Scramble 9 Ditto 10 Narrate 11 Trickle 12 Pong 14 Vagary 16 Oyster 18 Brat 19 Remorse 22 Attract 23 Weird 24 Hay fever 25 Ugly
DOWN: 1 Additive 2 Sitting pretty 4 Cinder 5 Atrophy 6 Brainstorming 7 Eyes 8 Monk 13 Friendly 15 Rat race 17 Writhe 20 Mown 21 Dash

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Atherton pays inevitable price for weak England bowling

John Woodcock says the former captain should not be judged on his record alone

There never has been, nor is there ever likely to be, a truly successful captain of a Test team that has a bowling attack as weak as England's is at the moment, indeed has been since the days when Ian Botham and Bob Willis were a force together. Michael Atherton's record in charge needs to be seen with this in mind.

As a general rule, it is bowlers, not captains, that win matches. Mark Taylor will go down as a tip-top captain of Australia not because of his personal example of decency, honesty and tenacity, admirable though that is. He has prospered because, in Shane Warne, he has been blessed with one of the great match-winners in the history of the game.

When, as in India this month, Warne became suddenly no more effective than Croft and Tufnell, Taylor found himself in much the same straits as Atherton. His side is thrashed and he himself is berated. I tell you: without Warne, Australia are no great shakes.

As England captain, Atherton has displayed some splendid qualities. He has abundant courage, a bulletproof temperament, the necessary *sang-froid* and an uncompromising conviction of England's proper expectations. Many a more naturally gifted batsman has had a vastly inferior record in Test cricket. His opponents, too, have always held him in high regard, as could be deduced from Brian Lara's handsome tribute after England's defeat on Tuesday evening. Even Ian Chappell, as seasoned and exacting a bo'sun as Australia ever had, has praised the cut of Atherton's jib.

It was a pity, when the chance came, that Atherton was not made captain of Lancashire, to give him more practice in the job. Nevertheless, given Atherton's role and resources in West Indies this winter, and his misfortune with the toss in the all-important fourth Test in Georgetown, even the best of captains would have been up against it. On the sort of underprepared pitches that England were presented with, Ambrose and Walsh are still an awesome proposition; they are in an entirely different class from Caddick and Headley. Even so, it looks to me that, when these two are gone, West Indies are in for a difficult time.

Making runs against England, as Lambert and Wallace did in the last two Test matches, is no longer a great feather in a batsman's cap and, without their two great giants, the West Indies bowling would have been thin. I think that their resounding defeat in Pakistan at the end of last year is a more accurate reflection of their present weight, anyway on good pitches, than this victory over England.

But that is a diversion. What England's cricket has lacked under Atherton, which need not have been so, is a real understanding of flair. In West Indies, the work level, if that is the right description, was unsparing. I am sure that hours and hours were spent studying videos and in self-analysis. At times, official members of the party, ready with their support and encouragement and expertise, almost outnumbered the players, there were so many of them. But what has come of Graeme Hick and Dominic Cork? And why was Mark Ramprakash left out of the first three Test matches when he had played so well against Australia at the Oval last summer? Like Adam Hollioake and his brother, Ben, they all have flair — and, heaven knows, England need it.

As to Atherton's future as a Test cricketer, that will depend now on his form with the bat. If he gets that back, he could well have many more Tests ahead of him — and whoever succeeds him can be absolutely certain of his unqualified support.

Of those in the running to do so, Alec Stewart would seem to be the safest choice, Adam Hollioake the most adventurous and Nasser Hussain the most uncomfortable. It is a post that carries vicissitudes and very little rest. From now on, Atherton will have more time for fishing, to the joys of which he was introduced by John Barclay in South Africa. Henceforth, at the end of the day, when he has nothing to show for his efforts, he will need only to wonder whether he should have changed the fly. Someone else will have to worry whether he should have changed the bowling.

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